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JULY 1994

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How the Rossoneri battered Barcelona

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- BAGGIO
- ROMARIO
- MATTHAUS
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NIALL QUINN

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LATEST INTERNATIONAL RESULTS LINE-UPS AND TABLES

Uruguay winger Dorado shoots through Argentine keeper Botasso's legs to open the score in the 1930 World Cup Final.

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Commentary

Keir Radnedge

WorldCupUSA94

FINALLY, after all the ifs and buts, all the will-he-won't-he agonising over Maradona, Russia's suicidal tendencies, Josip Weber and Roy Wegerle's nationality switches, the Joao Havelange sideshow, a multi-million- dollar spat among the sponsors, acres of hot air and cold type over the most controversial of host nations . . . after all that, let's get down to the football.

This, in case you have forgotten it, is what the World Cup finals are all about; some 528 footballers, bound head to toe in hype, will attempt to break the bonds of over-expectation and deliver 52 matches which are ensured a place in the sport's history books.

Almost the least important issue now is the one over which most blood has been spilled: the United States as hosts. In a few frantic weeks the circus will move on and the Americans can do what they like with Major League Soccer and the rest without having the remainder of the world peering sniffily over their shoulder.

If it works, fine; if it fails, well, at least they tried and all credit to Alan Rothenberg and Co. for that.

But now, we have more pressing and more important matters to consider: what sort of a World Cup can we expect and who will win? Of course each World Cup is unique. The mix of nations is always different. The balance of power tilts one way then another. The key players vary in identity and influence. The 1994 World Cup finals in the US will be no less unique. But, more, they will be a once-in-a-lifetime event in their own right.

Don't believe the hype . . . Italia '90 was a big let-down.

The finals were awarded to the US in particular circumstances: a one-off effort to attack a resistant soccer market and provide the dynamic to establish a professional culture and league which will last.

This confluence of opportunities will not exist again. The effort will succeed or fail. Either way, there is no going back. The raison d'etre for an unprecedental diplomatic and commercial campaign is here today and gone tomorrow. For soccer in the US, this is "take it or leave it" time. Exciting new markets are opening up in the East. No more time can be wasted. The World Cup will not be back this way.

Such a context adds an extra complication to the usual success or failure equation.

World Cups are usually judged on two levels. The first is: were the finals an organisational, commercial and financial success? The second, and most enduring, is: were the finals a technical success i.e. did they produce football of quality with drama and excitement to sear the memory? Now also, the game will need to judge whether 1994 will have achieved its missionary goal.

The foundations on which such judgments may be built are laid by considering the likely outcome of the six first-round groups and by studying the rule and procedural changes effected to try to put an entertaining new visage on an increasingly wrinkled old face.

ONE FOR THE RECORD

HISTORIC TOURNAMENT AIMING TO BREAK BONDS

GROUP A: based on Los Angeles, features the United States, Switzerland, Colombia and Romania. That is tough for the Americans. Traditionally the hosts somehow emerge in a comparatively weak group because of the promotional importance of their progression to the knock-out stages. But this is no pushover package for the US. However coach Bora Milutinovic weaves the tactical and psychological magic w hich took Mexico to the quarter-finals in 1986 and little Costa Rica to the second round in 1990, he faces a daunting prospect.

First, he has had to prepare without half his best players, who are contracted to league clubs in Europe — such as strikers Roy Wegerle (in England) and Ernie Stewart (in Holland) and schemer Tab Ramos (in Spain). Second, Carlos Valderrama's Colombia are the fancied outsiders of the entire event on the strength of their 5-0 win away to Argentina in Buenos Aires in the qualifiers. Third, the US open their campaign against the best Swiss national team since the early 1960s, under English coach Roy Hodgson; if the US do not score an early goal, attacking anxiety could leave them ever more vulnerable to a lethal counter-attack from Stephane Chapuisat.

Neither should anyone discount a Romanian side who proved their mental strength by hitting back to snatch qualifying victory from the jaws of defeat in their last qualifying match away to Wales in Cardiff. Midfield leader Gheorghe Hagi has a point to prove after a first-match suspension prevented him from getting into his masterful stride at Italia '90

Verdict: **the US must hope to squeeze through for a three-team qualification with Colombia and Romania.**

GROUP B: based on San Francisco, has the most exciting Brazil in years taking on Russia, Cameroon and Sweden.

Brazil must be considered among the strongest of winning candidates. Jorginho and Ricardo Gomes are resolute in defence and counter-attack, Rai and Branco are a winning combination of skill and strength in midfield (assuming Rai shakes off his French league hangover) while Bebeto and Romario are possibly the two in-form strikers in European football, with La Coruna and Barcelona. Their only problem , as ever, will be over-confidence.

Russia come to their first World Cup since the break-up of the Soviet Union not in the best of spirits after the players' vain attempt to force the replacement of coach Pavel Sadyrin. Victor Onopko, from Moscow Spartak, will hold the ship steady from the left side of midfield while Manchester United's Andrei Kanchelskis will provide attacking pace down the right wing.

Cameroon were almost everybody's heroes in Italy, for bringing African invention through to the quarter-finals (where they lost 3-2 in extra time to England). But Cameroon's success blinded many observers to the rugged nature of their game which, if repeated in the US, could lead to a string of red and yellow cards. If Cameroon's discipline goes then they will be at the mercy of a Swedish side who will be relying heavily on the attacking partership of Martin Dahlin and Tomas Brolin.

Looking for goals . . . German striker Jurgen Klinsmann.

Verdict: **Brazil and Russia to go through and third place should be good enough for one of the others.**

GROUP C: appears tailor-made to provide a qualification guarantee for both defending titleholders Germany and for Spain because South Korea and Bolivia offer little as surprise material.

Germany will be as fit and well-prepared as ever by coach Berti Vogts. Andy Moller from Juventus will provide inspiration in midfield and experienced Jurgen Klinsmann must score the goals. Otherwise, the Germans are looking dangerously old with the likes of Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Kohler and Co. possibly past their best. The fatigue factor could prove decisive in the closing stages.

As for Spain, Javier Clemente's men have gained enormously from the slipstream of confidence exuded by the nucleus from Barcelona, who have won the Spanish League title for the past four seasons. Striker Julio Salinas cannot win a first-team place with Barcelona but he is Spain's top scorer, including five goals in two games against Albania and the Irish Republic last autumn, and will happily expect to bludgeon some more against Bolivia and South Korea.

Bolivia will weave neat attractive patterns around Erwin Sanchez in midfield but will lack penetration, while South Korea — though appearing in their third consecutive finals — probably will be once again inhibited by the pressure from exorcising the depressing negativity which scarred both their own and Asia's reputation in Italy in 1990.

Verdict: **Germany and Spain to qualify, Bolivia and South Korea to go home early.**

GROUP D: Greece will enjoy voluble ethnic support but fellow newcomers Nigeria may fail to match all the over-the-top hype bringing them out of Africa, for all the power of striker Rashidi Yekini. Bulgaria,

damned as the team who eliminated France, will thankfully leaven their defensive strength with the explosive counter-attacking pace of Hristo Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov.

Which leaves Argentina and the most intriguing selectoral dilemma of them all in the person of Diego Armando Maradona.

He Who Must Be The Centre of Attention returned from more than two years in the wilderness of scandal to help edge stuttering Argentina past Australia in the intercontinenal qualifying play-off. He then fell out with his latest club, Newell's Old Boys, who claimed he was neither mentally nor physically fit to fulfil his contract.

Maradona insisted he could prepare for the World Cup without a club foundation and manager Basile appeared to support him by naming Maradona in the squad for a March friendly in Brazil.

In the event Maradona did not play and even his enduring sycophants in the Argentinian media question now whether he should be humoured any further. Maradona still possesses wondrous skills but appears to have lost psychological control over his talent and fading career.

The danger for Argentina is that selecting Maradona will guarantee a distracting circus of controversy at the finals — the last thing a temperamentally brittle side need. Even on the pitch the other over-awed players will always look for Maradona first rather than indulge their own considerable talents as they would in his absence.

Centre of attention . . . Argentina's Diego Maradona.

Argentina might well be better off not only leaving Maradona at home but also making the decision sooner rather than later for the sake of strategic peace of mind.

Verdict: **Argentina and Bulgaria to do the pragmatic necessary and possibly Greece to follow them through, depending on the balance of results elsewhere.**

GROUP E: based on New York-New Jersey, will be one of the most delicate. Mexico have skill, organisation, the proven goal-scoring potential of Hugo Sanchez and Brazilian-born Zague as well as the colourful goalkeeper, Jorge Campos.

Norway, by contrast, will bring the well-drilled realists who outmanoeuvred England (and Holland) in the qualifiers. Either or even both could sneak into the second round if the "match of the group" between Italy (Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini, Roberto Baggio, etc) and the Irish Republic (Paul McGrath, Roy Keane, Andy Townsend, etc) ends in stalemate in Giants Stadium despite the inbuilt potential in a conflict between the ultimate in class and the ultimate in commitment.

Such an outcome is extremely likely given both teams' tradition for tight defence, less-than-profligate attacks and the narrow confines of what otherwise would be judged an illegally small pitch. Of course, FIFA's insistence on having a neo-New York venue took precedence over the needs of mere football players.

Verdict: **Green lights for Italy and Ireland but they may not leave any crumbs of comfort at all for Norway and Mexico.**

GROUP F: appears a straigthforward passage forward for old rivals and neighbours Holland and Belgium. Holland are the best outsiders from Europe, but much depends on whether new hero Dennis Bergkamp can recover a consistent spark of form after a trying debut season in Italy with mixed-up Internazionale, and whether John Bosman, a late addition to the squad as replacement for the departed Ruud Gullit, can show his club form.

The other teams in the group, Morocco and Saudi Arabia, will test Belgian and Dutch patience, physical resolve and attacking invention. Morocco were, in 1986, the first African nation to reach the World Cup second round. Drawing on that experience will be important.

Saudi Arabia, by contrast, the great under-achievers of Gulf football, appear organisationally flawed after just appointing — in Argentinian Jorge Solari — their third coach in six months.

Verdict: **Holland and Belgium to progress, Morocco qualifying third.**

So much for the teams, now for the tournament formula which remains the same as 1986 and 1990. The top two teams in each group PLUS the four third-placed teams WITH THE BEST RECORDS (points, goal difference, goals scored) go forward to the second round. From there it is straight knock-out all the way to the Final with penalty shoot-outs in operation if teams are all-square after extra time.

But there is one vital difference which could breathe new life into the World Cup as a spectacle. For the first time, FIFA has decided that victories in the first mini-leagues shall be worth THREE points.

The traditional two-points-for-a-win formula had run out of steam in football's safety-first era. Teams level after an hour settled for a point apiece and shut games down. The stimulation of an extra point for victory effectively added 30 minutes to each match. Gradually the formula is spreading throughout Europe and will be used in the next E uropean Championship as well as these World Cup finals.

The significance is this: until now, countries have attended the finals knowing that three 0-0 draws would be enough to secure them a place in the second round. That encouraged negativity in approach, team selection and tactics. It also meant that most teams who progressed beyond the first round were then trapped in a safety-first straightjacket which prevented them from readjusting to the more outgoing approach needed in the next rounds.

Hopefully, three points for a win in the first round should help revolutionise attitudes and create a more positive and attractive tournament.

In addition, FIFA are rigorously preparing referees to give greater protection to creative players: violent play and time-wasting cheats should be punished ruthlessly while the introduction of specialist linesmen should also help improve the football "climate".

Since Italia '90 — a woeful dirge of cynicism — the game also has been brightened by the ban on goalkeepers handling back passes from their own players. This has provided more "flow" to matches even if, on occasions, it also has kept the linesmen busy with their offside flags in consequence of thoughtless knock-backs from midfield players trapping their own forwards in no-man's land.

The 1994 World Cup finals are the most fascinating in technical terms for many, many years. Of course, the finals will miss nations of tradition such as England, Denmark, Portugal, France and Uruguay, and those of exciting potential such as Japan. But they had their chances to qualify and blew them.

In their absence, the ultimate glory should be contested between Germany, Italy, Brazil and Argentina, with one's head looking to Germany and one's heart to Brazil.

IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE . . .

MORE World Cup books have been cascading in this direction. In alphabetical order:

The Budweiser Road To The USA by Ray McManus (Sportsfile, 21 Great Denmark Street, Dublin 1; price £4.95): a pictorial record of the Republic of Ireland's 12-match World Cup qualifying odyssey which, at £4.95, is a real bargain.

Going to America by Eoghan Corry (Torc, Knocksedan House, 123 Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Dublin 13; price £4.99): chunky preview from the Irish angle. Good airplane reading at a bargain price.

Guinness Record of the World Cup edited by Jack Rollin (Guinness Publishing, 33 London Road, Enfield, Middlesex; price £12.99): a standard work now for armchair viewers with history, statistics, stars, legends, etc, and a characteristically Rollin-esque odds and ends section.

Here We Go — US '94 by Mary Hunt (Sparrow Books, c/o 34 Garden Village Drive, Kilpedder, Co Wicklow; price £8.99): a celebration of the Irish march on the citadels of world football and a follow-up to Hunt's description of the Irish campaign at Italia '90.

Shoot World Cup '94 edited by Keir Radnedge (Reed Books, Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RB; price £4.99): bright, colourful preview to the finals aimed at younger readers and covering all the history, teams and stars to watch.

Soccer the Game and the World Cup edited by Elio Trifari and Charles Miers (Rizzoli International, New York; price £19.95): a "coffee table" tribute to the great game and its greatest tournament with Rizzoli giving the World Cup the "art" treatment with fine quality paper and colour reproduction and text produced by the football writers of Italy's *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Finally, Volumes 8 and 9 of the ***Polish Encyopedia Pilkarska*** series edited by Andrzej Gowarzewski which present full statistical data on every player who has ever appeared in the finals (Volume 8) and every match ever played in the finals (Volume 9). Details from Wydawnictwo GiA, 40-357 Katowice 14, Poland.

Arming Big Jack's green army

OF ALL the hundreds of World Cup 1994 souvenirs on sale at the moment, the most unusual has to be a hand-made, hand-painted goat-skin bodhran.

This (pronounced Bow-Rawn) is a traditional Irish instrument, and Malachy Kearns is producing special World Cup versions at his workshop in Connemara, deep in the west of Ireland. So, expect the samba beat at Brazil's games to be matched by thousands of Irish fans hammering away on their bodhrans.

For further information write to Roundstone Musical Instruments, The Monastery, Connemara, County Galway, Republic of Ireland, or telephone: 095-35875, fax: 095-35808.

WHAT OUR COLLEAGUES THINK . . .

OUT of interest — you can cross them off as they fall — this is what our main World Cup correspondents expect of the outcome at US '94.

Seven vote for Germany: Bob Vaughan, Eric Nicholls, Sean Creedon, Arthur Rotmil, Eric Weil and John Kelly.

Six go for Brazil — Paul Gardner, Mark Gleeson, Brian Homewood, Pentti Hietanen, Jan-Hermen De Bruijn and Ola Previdd.

There are two votes for Italy, from Graham Turner and Paddy Agnew, **two for Argentina,** from Charlie Charters and Jonathan Shallard, and **one for Holland** from Victor Gusev.

● You may have noticed that our price has gone up to £1.80. We apologise for this, but rising production costs make this inevitable. However, with more pages and more colour, we hope you'll agree that *WORLD SOCCER* is still great value for money.

● Sorry, pressure on space, because of our World Cup coverage, means no *A-Z of the World's Great Grounds* this month and next. The series will be back in September's issue.

Security guard . . . Romania stopper Miodrag Belodedici (left).

ROMANIA

In line for a leading place

IN COACH Anghel Iordanescu the Romanians have a "football man" to get them further in the finals than ever before. He is the right manager at the right time.

Three wins in the three matches left in qualifying Group 4 when he took over represent an excellent record, and with it goes much international experience and a squad experienced in top club football in western Europe.

There may be a slight doubt in goal, but Belodedici would make anyone secure. His fellow-defenders will need to be just that in the heat of Los Angeles, when Romania kick off against Colombia. There could hardly be a more unpredictable opposition for Hagi & Co. The traditional first-day draw may not be so easy to plan.

Romania will not cry if Valderrama is not fit, but there also is Asprilla and Rincon. Much also may depend on Hagi's fitness and attitude, which the Colombians will have noted against Northern Ireland. A volatile battle could ensue.

The US in LA may be more to Romania's taste. That could be the one Iordanescu MUST win after a different type of match with the Swiss in cooler Detriot.

"Best ever place" is the forecast for a mature squad, some of whom will not get another chance. Second place in the group, and on to the semi-finals, penalty shoot-outs or not!

BOB VAUGHAN

KEY MAN:

Miodrag Belodedici. His covering and starting of attacks and his influence on the team will be essential, especially in the opening game. A possible man of the tournament.

SWITZERLAND

The most resilient yet

THE Swiss national team were a revelation in the World Cup qualifying campaign, thanks to the discovery of several top-class players who now excite even the discerning crowds in Germany, where they ply their trade.

Switzerland are in a group which they would have chosen beforehand, and will feel let down if they do not progress into the second round for the first time since 1954.

Having waited 28 years to reach the finals again, the Swiss feel they now have the most resilient team ever and they expect success.

Their English manager, Roy Hodgson, has blended players together from racially and linguistically different parts of the country, and thanks to his organisation and tactical deployment the team have achieved long spells of favourable results. This undoubtedly strengthened morale and boosted confidence.

Problems exist in one or two positions, while the heat and humidity may adversely affect some of the veterans.

The mixture of youth and experience should advance beyond the preliminary stage, but any further inroads would be a bonus.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

KEY MAN:

World-class striker Stephane Chapuisat, a star in the Bundesliga. "Chappi" is two-footed and strong in the air, with a knack of scoring decisive goals.

COLOMBIA

Still searching for El Dorado

IN ITALY in 1990 Colombia reached the second round, before losing 2-1 to Cameroon in extra time, a bitter defeat in a game that the Colombians could well have won in normal time. This time, their sights are set much higher.

The draw was kind to Colombia — the feeling is that the South Americans should not have too much trouble against Switzerland, Romania and the US in the first round. A place in the semis looks possible.

The team are capable of superb football — the 5-0 obliteration of Argentina is proof of that. Not only do the Colombians win, they do it excitingly. Skill and style are everywhere in the team, from defenders such as Luis Herrera, through midfielders Fredy Rincon and Carlos Valderrama (left) up to the flashy, speedy forwards Faustino Asprilla and Adolfo Valencia.

But the intangibles are working against the Colombians. Over-confidence, and the irritating knowledge that however much they are praised for their attractive football, they have never yet won a major title

PAUL GARDNER

KEY MAN:

Midfielder Carlos Valderrama, the man with the explosive blond hair. At 32, a wily veteran now, the man who controls the pace of things, switches the point of attack, and puts teammates through with radar passes.

UNITED STATES

Wrong record in sight

THE rock-bottom aim of the United States squad is to make sure their country do not net a record, by being the first hosts in World Cup history to be eliminated in the first round.

It won't be easy. Switzerland, Colombia and Romania, to be faced in that order, make this one of the tougher groups.

Off-the-field advantages for the US include being the home team, which inevitably means getting a crucial break or two, plus the fact that public and media pressure will not be intense unless the second stage is reached — which would be judged a success. And the coach, Bora Milutinovic, is expected to work some magic.

On the field, there is midfield creativity with Hugo Perez, Tab Ramos, Frank Klopas, Roy Wegerle (if fit) and the 20-year-old Claudio Reyna, while Ernie Stewart is dangerous up front.

The main problem is at the back, where the defence let in sloppy goals, tackling poorly and often wildly, and playing an almost comically unreliable offside trap.

Cle Kooiman's arrival from Mexico will help, but the switching of Thomas Dooley from midfield to defence is a must.

PAUL GARDNER

KEY MAN:

Thomas Dooley, who is experienced, skilful and enthusiastic. An inspirational presence in midfield, but needed even more at the back.

BRAZIL

The long wait may be over

BRAZIL do not have the spark to set the World Cup alight the way they used to do. But with a solid defence and a potentially unstoppable attack, a fourth world title is well within their grasp.

If Bebeto and Romario both hit form, few, if any, defences are likely to be able to cope. If they don't, manager Carlos Alberto Parreira has other world-class options up his sleeve, such as Muller, Viola and Ronaldo, a 17-year-old with more than 50 goals for Cruzeiro already to his credit.

The defence, where Vasco's Ricardo Rocha could prove one of the surprises of the competition, seem unlikely to repeat their Albanian plumbing impersonation, while Parreira has promised to clamp down on the tantrums, sulking and other varieties of indiscipline that have proved so disruptive in the past.

Assuming — admittedly with a hint of optimism — that Parreira finally will convince himself that Branco and Dunga are past their prime and that Rai will either play his best or be chopped, then Brazil can end their 24-year wait for a World Cup win.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

KEY MAN:

Romario. Few defences are as tough as Uruguay's, yet last year, at the Maracana, Romario ran rings around them with a tantalising combination of speed and ball control. He has the scoring knack and will be playing with Bebeto, his favourite striking partner.

RUSSIA

A squad so lacking in unity

KEY MAN:

Goalkeeper Dmitri Kharin. He was great at the 1992 European Championship, except for the decisive game with Scotland, has had valuable experience playing for Chelsea, and looked very good in pre-World Cup games.

WHAT seemed to be best Russian/Soviet team of the past decade, according to many observers and players, was split last November due to the conflict between the top men and the coach. A potential medal winner will now have a problem with qualifying for the second stage of the tournament.

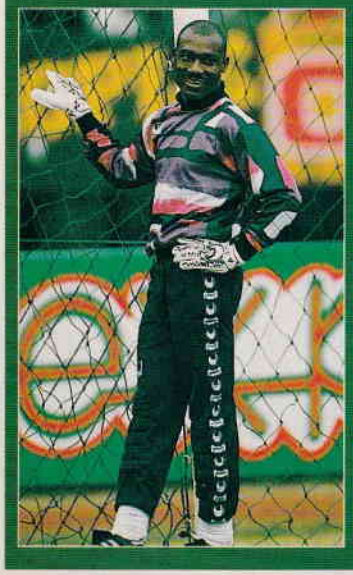
If Russia's foreign-based stars, such as Kiriakov, Kanchelskis and Shalimov, do not rejoin the team, it will be difficult to dream of beating Brazil. Having less confidence and skill, Russia will be using defensive tactics, and the last game with Cameroon might be crucial.

An advance to the next stage would give the players the confidence they need so badly. Then the wave of enthusiasm might even get Russia to the quarter-finals, but no further. Due to the long lasting conflict the team lack unity, and the coach, Pavel Sadyrin, has been without his best players less than two months before the tournament.

VICTOR GUSEV

CAMEROON

Small chance of a 1990 repeat



DOMESTIC woes, mostly surrounding alleged corruption by ousted federation president Pascal Owana, have cast a cloud over Cameroon's preparations.

The country has been under threat from FIFA following the feuding over just who is in charge of the federation . . . . and more particularly the money granted to the country ahead of the World Cup finals in order to effect proper preparations.

New president Maha Daher now has to fix up matters off the field, so that French-born coach Henri Michel can get on with the pre-tournament training.

A two-match trip to South Korea brought one glimmer of hope but team selection is still far from determined.

One thing to remember is that the Indominable Lions were as confused and ill-prepared before the World Cup in Italy four years ago, yet managed to achieve the best performance by any African country.

This time, though, Cameroon look unlikely to win a game.

MARK GLEESON

KEY MAN:

Veteran goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell, now 40, goes to his third World Cup finals without having played a match in the tournament. His experience will be needed to mould a team of ageing players and inexperienced youth.

SWEDEN

WorldCup USA94

Solid but short of speed

SWEDEN have a realistic chance of reaching the quarter-finals. They have a lower profile than at Italia '90, when they were rated as the dark horses of the tournament, but ended up having their worst-ever finals showing.

Coach Tommy Svensson is an even-tempered man, patient but persistent. He will get the best out of the team.

The style of play, with zonal marking and midfield pressing, does not present any surprises. But still not all countries can cope with it. All Swedish players have been coached to play this way at their clubs, which gives the team special unity. Traditionally, the Swedes are well-organised, disciplined, fit — and fervently proud to play for their country.

In terms of solid teamwork, Sweden will have few peers in the finals.

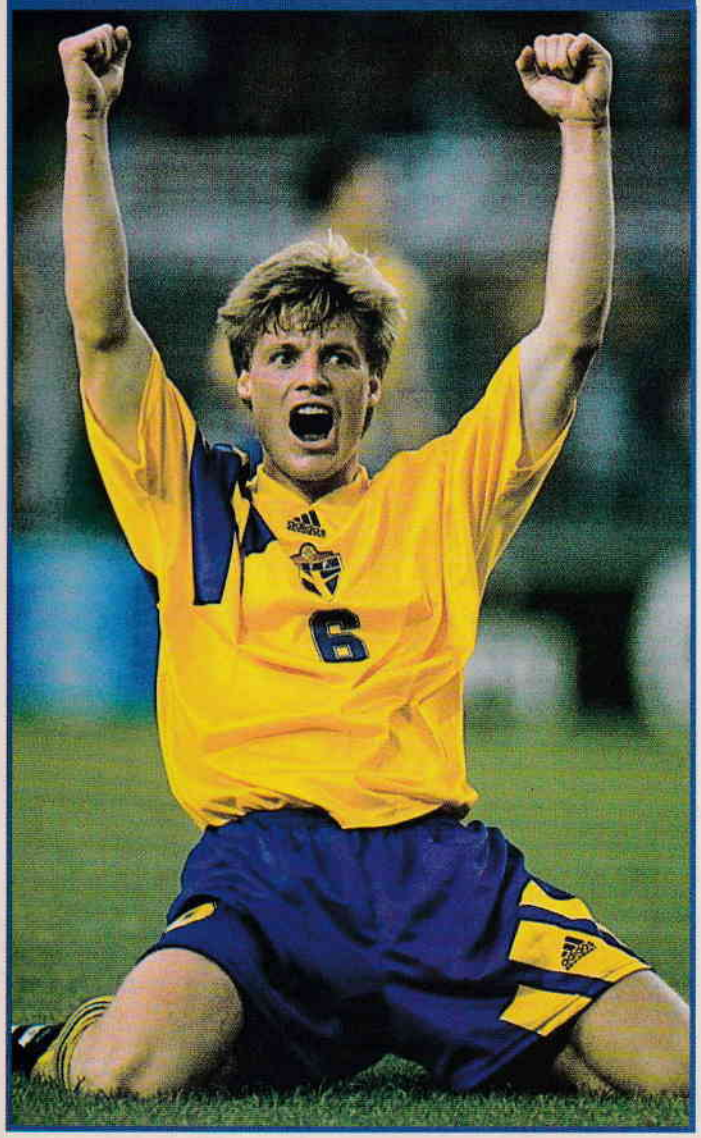
The biggest weakness could be in defence, where lack of pace is the main headache.

In midfield Sweden have a lot of quality players — Thern, Schwarz, Rehn, Ingesson — and Dahlin and Brolin can be trusted to turn their probings into goals.

PENTTI HIETANEN

KEY MAN:

Tomas Brolin, springboard of Sweden's attack. His all-round game has improved at Italy's Parma. He is a lethal finisher, an excellent one-touch passer, and he does not mind the rough stuff.



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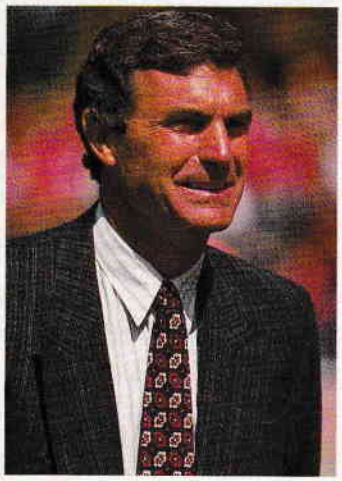
FOOTBALL COACHES & TEACHES ASSOCIATION

Over 200 survive AFCAT convention!

AGAINST all odds more than 250 delegates, guest coaches and young players survived the first annual coaching convention of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers at Milton Keynes.

The success of the convention exceeded all expectations, with presenters from the US, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Australia and Romania as well as a host of top English coaches and speakers.

Those attending experienced a hectic and wide ranging schedule that was relentless in its pace and variety. From the opening session by Dean Conway of the US at 1.30pm on the Friday, over 25 presentations were given before the coaches left at 2.45pm on Sunday to watch the England v Norway game. The



many highlights at the convention included the inaugural banquet held in the huge and atmospheric concourse of Saxon Court, which was supplemented by the dressing the bar as an adidas football shirt hall of fame, creating much interest from those seeing many of these products at close range for the first time.

Speakers at the dinner included Trevor Brooking (above), Tony Waiters and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America president, Gary Avedikian.

Trevor spoke with great insight into the changes that have occurred in the way youngsters develop their interest in soccer, and both Tony and Gary, who are veterans of many of the 47 conventions held down the years in the US congratulated AFCAT on such a magnificent first effort at staging such an event.

Paul Power of the PFA attended throughout the event and was as pleased, and tired, as were all the delegates at the end of the vast range of soccer activities covered.

The full list of presentations illustrates just how ambitious and comprehensive this convention had been. Keith Blunt of the FA National School expressed his pleasure to attend the convention and meet so many old friends.

Perhaps the most accurate comment of the weekend came from Jan Derks, assistant manager of the Dutch under-21 team.

"As soon as I entered the hotel and saw these people," he said "I could smell the atmosphere of football in the room".

An unscheduled but highly amusing presentation came from AFCAT administrator Rob Littleford, who gave a highly personal view of how to operate audio visual aids in a pressure situation.

Thanks were given to adidas and *WORLD SOCCER* for their support of the Association, and the Milton Keynes local authority presented AFCAT with a commemoration silver salver to mark this memorable occasion.

Graham Morgan, thanking guests and presenters on behalf of AFCAT and adidas, welcomed Keith Blunt of the FA to the event and said that as football is under threat from social changes, particularly from computer games, TV, video, stereo, etc he hoped that those in a position to help, FA, PFA, ESFA and AFCAT, could get together to ensure the next generation of players, currently aged between 5 and 12, get the chance to discover soccer and fall in love with the game for life, just as all those at the convention had done.

Guests at the convention included FA full badge coach and former international player Sue Lopez, who has agreed to accept a place on the AFCAT committee to give women's soccer a voice in the activities.

Running man . . . Don Howe shows the way at a training session.

The AFCAT convention comprised the following:

Name	Title	Topic
Jeff Tipping	NSCAA Associate Director	Midfield Play
Phil Darren	Co-ordinator, Schools Football Initiative	The benefits for teachers and pupils
Roger Skyrme	Manager Welsh Schools FA Team	National Curriculum — Four goals indoor
Dr Victor Stanculewscu	Former Romania assistant national coach	Three dimensional system of performance - Football presentation
Keith Webb	Youth Coach, Norwich City	Passing and angles for Youth Team players
John Morton	English Schools FA Coaching Committee	Goalkeeping techniques
Colin Morris	FA Full Licence Coach	The art of tackling and defensive systems
John Cartwright	Youth Coach, Charlton Athletic	Mastering the ball from an early age
Bryan King	Manager, Kongsvinger IF, Norway	Passing and finishing work, & goalkeeper warm-ups
Jerry Gilmore	Harley Street Surgeon	Gilmore's groin
Rob Littleford	AFCAT administrator	Advanced techniques utilising visual aids in soccer coaching
Dean Conway	Director of coaching, Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association	US Soccer and World Cup 1994
Roby Stahl	Chief operations officer Post to Post, US and Sweden	Education on the attack
Jan Derks	Dutch Under-21 assistant national coach	The Dutch vision of soccer
Dave Richardson	Director of youth, Aston Villa and England	Clarification of youth development under new FA regulations
Paul Power	Co-ordinator, PFA coaching working party	The PFA and coaching
Tom McNab	Former AAA national coach and author	Focus on youth in youth soccer
Steve Darby	National development officer, Australian Soccer Federation	Rooball - its concept and development
Graham Smith	Society of Sports Therapists	The coach's role in the treatment of injuries
Dario Gradi	Team manager, Crewe Alexandra	Creating time and space on the ball
John Hammond	AFCAT member (physical educationalist)	Plyometrics and its benefits
Jack Detchon	Sheffield & Hallamshire County Football Association	Running with the ball
Willie Donachie	Assistant manager, Oldham Athletic	Combination play, creating space, and finishing
Alfred Galustian	Director of Coerver Coaching	
Paul Mariner	Former England forward	
Tony Waiters	World of Soccer, Canada	Devlopment programmes in Canada
Alan Churchard	Technical director BC Soccer, Canada	

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WORLD SOCCER

GERMANY

The favoured few

THE GERMAN national team have been consistently rated by FIFA's computerised merit table as the World's No.1, and therefore rank as favourites for the title.

Recent displays — despite the setback against the Republic of Ireland — have confirmed the impression that their commitment, tactical discipline and technical level of skill make this an outstanding side, very difficult to beat and surely more experienced in the top grade than any other contender.

This assessment is reinforced by manager Berti Vogts's decision to keep faith with those players who won the World Cup four years ago.

Eight men who triumphed in the final against Argentina in Rome are again first-choice candidates, and their knowledge of each other's strengths and weaknesses will be invaluable.

The Germans always have been a typical tournament team who raise their game in competitive encounters. That is why they have the best record of any international side, and seem sure to reach a fourth successive World Cup Final.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

KEY MAN:

The victorious World Cup skipper and now libero, Lothar Matthaus (above), the country's most-capped player with 110. A dynamic, inspirational performer, equally strong attacking or defending.

SPAIN

Realistic not optimistic

SPAIN could reach the semi-finals. They'll be strong, enthusiastic, aggressive and, probably, very hard to beat.

Javier Clemente is a good motivator and has a degree of self-belief which he passes on to his players. He's a shrewd tactician fast to spot opposition's weak links. The Spaniards are unlikely to produce many individual stars, with their game based on physical solidity.

Clemente has a versatile squad with players such as Ferrer, Hierro, Bakero and Caminero able to operate in various roles. Questions start with the reliance on players from Barcelona, who have had a demanding season and may struggle to stay the pace.

There's also a lack of scoring power, with few alternatives to the fingers-and-thumbs game of Salinas (right), whose play is all about tugged shirts and markers rolled aside with shoulders or backside.

Realism makes it difficult to share Clemente's optimistic claims of being able to win the trophy.

GRAHAM TURNER

KEY MAN:

Julen Guerrero, the Athletic Bilbao inside-forward. He lacks the kilos Clemente prefers and, at 20, lacks experience, but is one of the few Spanish players capable of bursting into the box from deep positions and making goals out of nothing. Potentially world-class.

BOLIVIA

Caution could be costly

BOLIVIA'S qualification was no fluke. A team with a handful of veterans playing alongside a promising bunch of youngsters (many of them products of the Tahuichi Academy youth programme in Santa Cruz) produced soccer good enough to inflict Brazil's first-ever qualifying-round defeat, and to eliminate Uruguay.

The team is stocked with skilful, creative players, and Spanish coach Xavier Azkargorta has produced an open, flowing style that allows the players considerable freedom to attack.

But a more cautious approach will be no doubt necessary in the World Cup. The opening game against Germany will reveal all. Bolivia are not a defensive team and attempting to play that way may be dangerous. The usual attacking game — and Azkargorta insists that his team does not change styles, whoever the opponents — may surprise the Germans. "Remember the 1990 opening game, and what Cameroon did to Argentina," is Azkargorta's reply to the doom-sayers.

Much will depend on whether the left-footed Marco Etcheverry can recover in time from a serious knee ligament injury suffered last November. A brilliant dribbler and goal-scorer, he teams up in midfield with another ex-Tahuichi, playmaker Erwin Sanchez.

Qualification for the second stage is the ambition. A win over South Korea and a draw with either Germany or Spain should do it. But that opening game against the Germans could be crucial.

PAUL GARDNER

KEY MAN:

Erwin Sanchez, 24 years old, nicknamed "Platini", midfielder with Boavista in Portugal. Elegant, speedy, brains of the team, scorer of five goals in the qualifying games.

SOUTH KOREA

Bank on a second-round spot

NOT SINCE Iran in the 1978 World Cup has Asia produced a team more likely to get through to the second round.

South Korea's toughest game of the group (v Germany in Dallas on June 27) is their last and therefore will not effect subsequent first-round games.

The team's most important form pointer was the recent tight series against 1990 World Cup darlings Cameroon, when the Koreans drew 2-2 and won 2-1.

In both games they showed a most un-Asian thirst to close down midfield and interrupt Cameroon's passing patterns.

Almost to a man they showed themselves to be stunningly fast. Having forced errors from Cameroon, the Koreans were exceptionally quick passing the ball up the field.

Those results, coupled with some heartening performances from their earlier tour through the US, including a 2-2 draw with Colombia, give real cause for optimism.

Getting through to the second round would be the highest realisable goal the management could expect this side to achieve. They lack any truly great players such as former Eintracht Frankfurt forward Cha Bum Kun, but make an especially tight team unit.

Watch for South Korea to score early in their first two matches, against Spain in Dallas on June 17 and against Bolivia in Boston on June 23.

Holding the lead against Spain would be difficult, but the Koreans should be able to hold out against the Bolivians.

After that, Germany. And after that . . . who knows?

CHARLIE CHARTERS

KEY MAN:

Hong Myung-Bo (right). The Koreans have a spirited attacking force but Hong Myung-Bo and his defence will have to keep them in the game, especially in the latter stages. Hong, one of the survivors from 1990, is Asia's answer to the Kaiser, emulating Franz Beckenbauer's commanding defensive presence and his style going forward.

BRAZIL CLING ON

BRAZIL are still blazing a trail at the top of the latest FIFA/Coca-Cola Ranking, increasing their lead over second-place Germany from 0.07 in April to 0.35 in May.

Sweden move up six places into third — their best position to date — and are now barely two points adrift of the leaders. Other World Cup finalists making steady progress include Argentina, up four places to sixth, and the Republic of Ireland, up five places to 12th.

But other qualifiers for US '94 have not fared so well, Nigeria, Holland, Russia, Spain, Italy and Switzerland all slipping down the table.

Five countries improved their standing by more than 10 places since last month: Slovenia (+30), Georgia (+27), Haiti (+15), South Africa (+14) and Surinam (+14).

Macedonia (147th) and Moldova (149th) enter the Ranking for the first time, with remarkably good results.

Ranking as of May 17, 1994

Rank	Country	Points	Change
1	Brazil	58.89	0
2	Germany	58.54	0
3	Sweden	56.65	+6
4	Norway	56.19	-1
5	Denmark	55.36	+1
6	Argentina	55.02	+4
7	Nigeria	54.68	-2
8	Switzerland	54.42	-4
9	Spain	54.05	-2
10	Romania	53.73	+1
11	Holland	53.35	-3
12	Republic of Ireland	51.92	+5
13	Mexico	50.61	0
14	Uruguay	50.37	+3
15	England	50.13	+1
16	Italy	49.90	-3
17	France	49.70	-2
18	Colombia	49.67	+2
19	Zambia	49.15	0
20	Russia	48.86	-8
21	Ivory Coast	47.19	0
22	Portugal	46.77	0
23	United States	46.48	0
24	Cameroon	45.77	+3
25	Egypt	44.62	-1
26	Scotland	44.42	+5
27	Poland	44.35	+1
28	Ghana	44.12	+1
29	Bulgaria	44.00	-4
30	Morocco	43.84	-4
31	Tunisia	42.07	-1
32	Greece	41.10	+5
33	Northern Ireland	40.61	+2
34	Belgium	40.10	-1
35	Saudi Arabia	39.48	-1
36	Wales	39.19	-4
37	South Korea	37.48	+3
38	Finland	37.06	+1
39	Iceland	36.72	+4
40	Chile	36.58	+6
41	Austria	35.75	-5
42	Zimbabwe	35.55	-1
43	Bolivia	35.10	+4
44	Australia	35.04	0
45	Slovakia	34.40	+9
46	Algeria	34.21	-8
47	Ecuador	34.15	-2
48	Mali	33.97	0
49	Hungary	33.67	+4
50	Costa Rica	33.66	-1
51	Honduras	33.37	0
52	Israel	33.24	0
53	China	33.03	-3
54	Japan	31.86	-12
55	Senegal	31.10	+3
56	Turkey	30.88	+1
57	Iran	30.06	+2
58	Canada	28.64	-3
59	Czech Republic	28.38	+4
60	Paraguay	28.27	+1
61	Iraq	27.76	+4
62	Guinea	26.43	+2
63	UAE	26.36	-7
64	Zaire	26.14	+2
65	Gabon	26.07	+2
66	Kuwait	25.12	-4
67	Thailand	24.14	+2
68	Sierra Leone	24.12	+2
69	Peru	23.90	+3
70	El Salvador	23.43	+3
71	Qatar	23.10	-11
72	Jamaica	22.85	+3
73	North Korea	22.61	-5
74	Malta	22.37	+6
75	Yugoslavia	22.12	-1
76	Cyprus	22.11	-5
77	New Zealand	21.47	+2
78	South Africa	21.27	+14
79	Oman	21.15	+4
80	Malawi	20.69	+1
81	Niger	20.55	-4
82	Kenya	20.35	-4
83	Singapore	20.22	-8
84	Bahrain	20.01	-2
85	Trinidad & Tobago	19.61	+10
86	Syria	19.41	-1
87	Slovenia	18.87	+30
88	Lithuania	18.14	-1
89	Malaysia	17.92	-5
90	Bermuda	17.79	-4
91	Latvia	17.10	-3
92	Jordan	16.69	-3
93	Ukraine	15.92	-3
94	Yemen	15.73	-3
95	Venezuela	15.56	-2
96	Surinam	15.48	+14
97	Albania	15.26	-3
98	Tanzania	13.62	0
99	Barbados	13.61	0
100	Swaziland	13.26	0
101	Uganda	13.22	-5
102	Croatia	13.17	+1
103	Burkina Faso	12.99	-2
104	India	12.87	-2
105	Madagascar	12.75	-2
106	Puerto Rico	12.49	-1
107	Hong Kong	11.97	-10
108	Gambia	11.69	+1
109	Burundi	11.58	-3
110	Fiji	11.52	+2
111	Luxembourg	11.34	+2
112	Congo	11.27	-5
113	Estonia	11.19	+2
114	Myanmar	11.11	+2
115	Indonesia	10.89	-7
116	Lebanon	10.86	-2
117	Ethiopia	10.54	-6
118	Guinea-Bissau	10.14	+1
119	Mozambique	9.51	-1
120	Antigua	9.26	+1
121	Haiti	9.10	+15
122	Faroe Islands	8.93	-2
123	Togo	8.83	0
124	Angola	8.78	0
125	Sri Lanka	8.28	+2
126	Nepal	8.19	0
127	Sudan	8.10	-2
128	Bangladesh	8.06	-6
129	Georgia	7.54	+27
130	Panama	7.43	0
131	San Marino	7.31	-2
132	Guatemala	7.30	-4
133	Grenada	7.10	-2
134	St Vincent/Grenadines	6.90	-2
135	Liberia	6.75	-2
136	Dutch Antilles	6.36	-2
137	Benin	6.02	-2
138	Mauritius	5.10	-1
139	Vietnam	4.53	-1
140	Cayman Islands	4.35	-1
141	Lesotho	4.19	-1
142	Byelorussia	4.00	-1
143	St Lucia	3.87	-1
144	Guyana	3.80	-1
145	Pakistan	3.73	-1
146	Tahiti	3.54	-1
147	Macedonia	3.25	new
148	Botswana	3.22	-2
149	Moldova	3.14	new
150	Mauritania	3.05	-3
151	Laos	2.20	-3
152	Maldives	2.05	-3
153	Cape Verde Islands	2.02	-4
154	Solomon Islands	1.85	-3
155	Brunei	1.58	-3
156	Dominican Republic	1.40	-3
157	Libya	1.30	-3
158	Liechtenstein	1.29	+2
159	Nicaragua	0.65	-4
160	Namibia	0.39	-3
161	Central African Rep.	0.26	-3
162	Seychelles	0.26	-3
163	Chinese Taipei	0.25	-2
164	Cuba	0.21	-2
165	Equatorial Guinea	0.14	-2
166	Philippines	0.12	-2
167	Vanuatu	0.04	-2
168	Aruba	0.03	-2
169	Chad	0.00	-2
169	Macao	0.00	-2
169	St Kitts & Nevis	0.00	-2

❒ *Countries inactive since 1988 and new countries which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

❒ *Change indicates movement since last month's (April) Ranking.*

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Date	Town	Venue
JUNE 10-11	SLIGO	HAWK'S WELL THEATRE
JUNE 12	GALWAY	ARTS CENTRE
JUNE 13-15	LIMERICK	BELLTABLE ARTS CENTRE
JUNE 29	OAKHAM	QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SCHOOL
JUNE 30	WEST WILTS	ARTS CENTRE
JULY 1	PORTSMOUTH	ARTS CENTRE
JULY 11	STRATFORD-UPON-AVON	FESTIVAL
JULY 14	BRIDGWATER	ARTS CENTRE
JULY 15	TORRINGTON	PLOUGH ARTS CENTRE
JULY 16	HASTINGS	STABLES THEATRE
AUG 10	PAISLEY	ARTS CENTRE
AUG 14-SEPT 3	EDINBURGH FESTIVAL	ASSEMBLY ROOMS
SEPT 24-25	OXFORD	PEGASUS THEATRE
SEPT 28	BURNLEY	THE MECHANICS THEATRE
SEPT 29	WORKSOP	REGAL THEATRE
SEPT 30	ROTHERHAM	ARTS CENTRE
OCT 7-8	SUDBURY	QUAY THEATRE
OCT 9	CHELTENHAM	LITERARY FESTIVAL
OCT 12	STAFFORD	GATEHOUSE THEATRE
OCT 13	WINCHESTER	KING ALFRED'S COLLEGE
OCT 14-15	DEPTFORD	ALBANY THEATRE
OCT 19-20	MANCHESTER	GREEN ROOM
OCT 21	SKELMERSDALE	LIBRARY THEATRE
OCT 28-29	MIDDLESBROUGH	LITTLE THEATRE
NOV 1	SPALDING	SOUTH HOLLAND THEATRE
NOV 3	NORWICH	ARTS CENTRE
NOV 4	BEDFORD	BOWEN WEST COM. CENTRE
NOV 11	ABERGAVENNEY	DRAMA CENTRE
NOV 17-19	SWINDON	ARTS CENTRE
NOV 25	BIRMINGHAM	MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE
DEC 1-2	STAINES	OLD TOWN HALL ARTS CENTRE
DEC 9-10	CAMBRIDGE	DRAMA CENTRE

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GOLLANCZ

1. In which year did Arsenal win the league and cup double?
2. Who did Arsenal beat in the 1979 FA Cup final?
3. Who scored the goal which clinched the 1988/89 League title at Anfield?
4. Who did Arsenal play in the 1980 European Cup Winners' Cup final?
5. Who missed last month's Euro. Cup Winners' Cup final through suspension?

SO MUCH DEPENDS ON THE OFFICIALS IN THE WORLD CUP. ANY MISTAKES WILL BE MAGNIFIED IN THE MEMORY OF MILLIONS. KEN GOLDMAN TALKS TO THE ONLY ENGLISH REFEREE GOING TO THE TOURNAMENT, AND DAVE TAYLOR INTERVIEWS THE SOLE ENGLISH LINESMAN.

'WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP ATTACKS FLOWING'

THERE will be several different interpretations of soccer's rules during US '94 — and referee Phil Don is one of the men with the job of enforcing them.

Don, the only English referee chosen for US '94, points out that spectators at the matches and watching TV will see plenty of changes.

"There are different views of the rules in different countries," says Don. "Now FIFA aim to standardise those interpretations as much as possible.

"The aim is to ensure that skill, excitement and entertainment are the keynotes of the competition. So referees will stop play only when necessary.

"They will pay particular attention to goalkeepers, who so often move before the ball is kicked at a penalty. There will be dismissals for handling to stop any obvious scoring opportunity.

"Tackling from behind in a violent manner will mean sending off, and any player deliberately preventing a free-kick from being taken will incur a booking."

Don, from Sheffield, also points out that there will be a fresh aspect to the problem of offside. "Linesmen will keep their flags down when an attacker, in which is normally thought of as an offside position, is not interfering with play.

"If there was a doubt, discretion usually favours the defending team. Now discretion will go towards the attacker, in order to encourage more goals.

'The aim is to ensure that skill, excitement and entertainment are the keynotes of the competition. So referees will stop play only when necessary'

"Viewers will need to watch for such phrases as 'active' and 'passive' players and 'active' and 'passive' zones. A player in a 'passive' offside position will not now be given offside.

"There will be an announcement of all cautions, dismissals, and scorers, but the reasons for any refereeing decisions will not be stated.

"Basically FIFA feel that the World Cup is the showpiece, which they wanted to take place in a big country packed with entertainment and excitement, so they are leaving it up the referees to ensure that we protect attacking players."

England's absence may well give Don a better chance of refereeing the final.

"Any referee whose country is left in the pool competition will be eliminated," he says. "This will mean that however well a referee has performed he will be unlucky, because FIFA now consider they can avoid any suggestion of bias if they follow that path.

"Certainly if I perform well I hope to get to the closing stages, but even if I don't this will be the pinnacle of my career so far. Although many people indicated after the meeting in Dallas that I was bound to be selected, there were still fewer places than the number of referees available.

"So I was tremendously excited and relieved when I heard the news. Obviously nothing is certain until you get confirmation from FIFA.

The men in black . . . Phil Don (centre) and Roy Pearson (right).

"This is the first time that specialist linesman are being used. This will help, because we'll all have the opportunity of working as a team.

"I'm lucky that Roy Pearson has been chosen. We've been out together on matches before. Lining is a specialist job and FIFA want to ensure that some of the problems of Italia '90 do not occur again.

"Anything going on in close proximity to the linesmen will be signalled by them, and it means a greater responsibility than they have ever had before."

The referees and linesmen will stay in Dallas and they will be travelling in teams of four to matches, then back for three or four days of relaxation before going out to the next games. The four consist of two referees, one reserve official, and two linesmen.

In a two-match sequence one referee will take the middle in the first game and become the reserve official in the second, while the two linesmen will operate in both matches.

A LINESMAN does not often make the sports pages, unless he does something wrong, but several have been noticed on merit alone.

Northern League referee and FIFA linesman Roy Pearson is one. Pearson, a 38-year-old electrician from Horden, near Sunderland, started his "official" career as a linesman in a Hartlepool Sunday League 15 years ago. Now he has achieved his ambition by being selected for the World Cup finals.

Pearson has been a FIFA linesman for two years and loves going abroad to wave his flag. "It's a lot easier to run the line abroad," he says. "Defenders don't push out so quick. There's no up and over.

"If you can put these things into figures it's about 20 per cent slower over there, so from a linesmen's point of view it's easier.

"You also get the adrenalin flowing in a big game abroad. There always seems to be a magnificent build-up."

Pearson recently returned from the US where 25 linesmen were whittled down to 22 after a series of fitness and aptitude tests.

"The organisation was incredible. We were met at the airport and taken to a five-star health farm in Dallas. It had every facility you can think of."

Colleagues reckon Pearson deserves his success but he knows from bitter experience you get nothing for nothing.

Recently he ran the line at Wembley in the FA Cup semi-final between Manchester United and Oldham while Don was in charge down the middle.

The following night he was working in the Blackburn-Villa game, on the Wednesday he was at Maine Road for the semi-final replay, and on the Saturday he was back to his bread-and-margarine games in the Northern League, collecting £12 for being piggy in the middle in the clash between Ferryhill and Stockton.

"We've been told that before we go back to Dallas we must have a month of saunas. It's so hot out there. When the door of that plane opens it's like opening an oven door, so we have to get our bodies acclimatised.

"Phil Don has been training a little more regularly than me, I like working with him and we have been thrown together five or six times this season.

"It's a great idea. Phil knows what I am going to do and I know automatically what he's going to do, where he's going to stand at a corner, free-kick and that sort of thing.

"The international language is English so that makes it a little easier for me.

"I've never worked with any of the officials out there apart from Phil, but they're all top men in their various countries.

"The new technology means that we'll be scrutinised more than ever. It will be worse than *Sky TV*.

"That's why they said they want the best over there. Hopefully we'll be up to it."

profile on **FERNANDO REDONDO**

Prince may be a new king

FERNANDO REDONDO, a reserved, quietly-spoken man from an upper-middle-class background is perhaps too polite and tactful to say his career is more inextricably entwined with Diego Maradona's than he might have wished.

"As far as I'm concerned I've never had a problem with Maradona," he said. "You can't talk of a dispute because there's no comparison. He's unique, a genius, I'm a simple footballer."

Redondo, a tall, elegant player in the old centre-half mould, is likely to play in a deeper midfield role in the World Cup.

Argentinians expect a lot of Redondo, who is dubbed "Prince" by the sports press, and was 25 on June 6.

He and Maradona patched up any differences they may have had about what it means to play for one's country when Maradona made his international comeback in the World Cup play-offs against Australia last year.

The meeting was amicable, if cool. Yet behind the facade there is a raw nerve somewhere deep in Redondo that Tenerife team-mate Antonio Pinilla discovered to his cost at a training session.

Pinilla hit Redondo with a hard, late tackle. Some heated words were exchanged and then the matter seemed over. But as Pinilla went on to tease Redondo for his reaction, the pair "faced each other like toreador and bull', in the words of Tenerife's assistant coach, Angel Cappa, and Redonda floored Pinilla with two punches, breaking his nose.

Tenerife's Argentinian coach, Jorge Valdano, suspended Redondo for three matches and would not lift the bar even for a Spanish Cup quarter-final.

Valdano was them the leading candidate to take

ARGENTINA

WorldCup USA94

Still questions to answer

ARGENTINA picked their World Cup squad without surprises. One player will have to be dropped from the 23 — which means Diego Maradona will become the first Argentinian to play in four World Cups.

Oscar Ruggeri will be in his third and there are six others who went to Italia '90: Goycochea, Sensini, Jose Basualdo, Caniggia, Balbo and Islas.

Under coach Alfio Basile the team started as more of an attacking side than under Carlos Bilardo, but gradually became more defensive with two or only one up, and usually failing to get support.

No fewer than 12 players were with clubs abroad, so only on May 9 could they start training together.

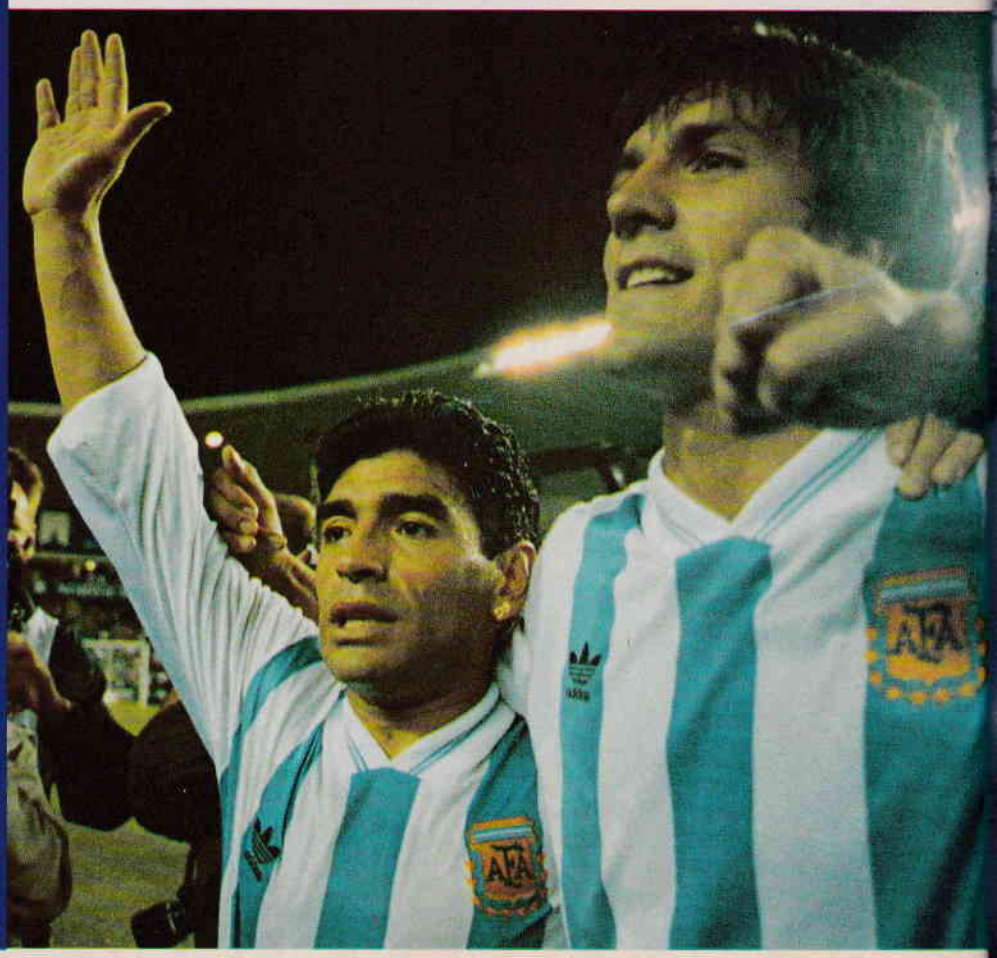
Their first-round group is not considered one of the strongest, and it would be an upset if they do not get through to the second round. From then on it depends on how much the team will improve.

The questions are: Can defensive weaknesses, which have shown up recently, be remedied? Can their often slow midfield build-up gain pace with Franco back from long injury and Caniggia from suspension? Can their attack click with Balbo as well as Caniggia now available to back up Batistuta?

ERIC WEIL

KEY MAN:

Maradona (right) came back to the team to play very well in a 3-1 victory over Morocco. He's older, slower, heavier, but still vital.



over as coach at Real Madrid, his former club. He has since landed the job, starting next season . . . and Redondo is going with him.

Redondo's links with Maradona go back to his early teens. He was discovered — like Diego more than 10 years earlier — by Argentinos Juniors in the early 1980s.

The setting was somewhat different. Redondo played his football in the pleasant suburb of Adrogue, near where his father owns a meat production plant. Maradona was spotted on dirt pitches in the Villa Fiorito shanty town, and his father commuted by bus to a factory every day. The shy Redondo did not want to go to Argentinos Juniors, a long way across the city in the working-class La Paternal district, until the club persuaded four of his friends to go with him.

Young Fernando made the grade, and played alongside Maradona's young brother, Hugo, in the Argentinian team who won the South American Under-16 title in 1985. The pair then went to China for the first World Under-16 Championship in 1986.

Redondo's progress towards the senior international side should have been smooth, but he did not get on with the coach of the junior teams, Carlos Pachame, and 1986 World Cup coach Carlos Bilardo.

He is said not to have wanted to play for Argentina between the 1986 and 1990 World Cups because he did not like Bilardo's cautious tactics, but says: "I didn't refuse to play. I decided to dedicate myself to my studies instead.

"It was a very difficult decision, but it had to do with feeling good with myself, and I don't regret it."

Maradona saw it differently, shocked that anyone could turn down the possibility of representing one's country.

In December 1990 Redondo ended his studies and became a free agent, because his contract with Argentinos Juniors ran out.

"Then came the offer from Tenerife, which changed various things in my life. I accepted because it was not something to be sniffed at. I decided to dedicate myself to football and I don't regret it."

Argentinos Juniors, who made six million dollars from the deal that took Maradona to Barcelona via Boca Juniors in 1982, watched the shrewd Redondo — who would be reading economics at university if he were not a footballer — walk away for nothing. Now Real Madrid are set to pay Tenerife £4 million to get him.

Redondo's wife Natalia is the daughter of Jorge Solari, a former Argentinian international who was in charge at Newell's Old Boys when Maradona had a brief spell there earlier this season, and is now coach of World Cup competitors Saudi Arabia.

And it was in Saudi Arabia that Redondo's full international career took off in 1992, with some princely performances in the King Fahd Cup which Basile's Argentina won. A couple of months later, after only four caps, he damaged ligaments in his left knee in a Spanish League match, needing an operation and five months out of action.

When he got back for the 1993 Copa America in Ecuador, where he was expected to be one of the stars, he was still short of pace. He began to regain speed during Argentina's World Cup qualifiers.

"I knew that when I was fully fit I would be able to hit the penalty area again," he said after a superb performance in Paraguay, where he scored his one international goal so far.

There may be more to come in the US, during a World Cup rendezvous with Maradona . . . and perhaps a new rating as Argentina's top player.

PHIL McVIE

NIGERIA

WorldCup USA94

Africa's best yet

THE recently-crowned African champions have the potential to do as much damage as Cameroon did in setting alight the World Cup finals in Italy four years ago.

Nigeria could go even better than the quarter-final that Cameroon achieved last time out.

They are the best team from Africa to have played in the World Cup and go into the tournament boosted by victory in the African Nations Cup in April.

Nigeria will have to overcome a testing opening round group but have the potential to make it to the knock-out phase.

Such is the mercurial nature of the side, though, that their tournament could be determined as early as their opening match, against Bulgaria in Dallas. A good performance there and Nigeria might prove unstoppable. Defeat and they will struggle.

KEY MAN:

Rachidi Yekini, the Kaduna Bull (below). He was in top scoring form at the African Nations Cup finals and his height and power make him dangerous.

Nigeria play a hard and uncompromising game. They will have the conditions on their side. Weak points are lack of self-belief on the ultimate stage and the individual desire of players to make an impression in order to secure better personal contracts with European clubs.

MARK GLEESON

BULGARIA

WorldCup USA94

Stand by for surprises

ARGENTINA must be Group D favourites but by the time of the last series of games on June 30, Bulgaria should have ensured qualification for the second round.

Nineteen goals in 10 qualifying ties was not prolific and with slide rules likely to be out to decide which third-placed countries in the initial six pools go through, manager Dimitar Penev will have to look at scoring potential, especially in his opening match with Nigeria.

Going for a win at what is usually a "no risk" stage of the competition looks his best option. But will the risk be taken by a traditionally defensive national team?

"Off with his head" may be a popular move on arrival home if Bulgaria do not pull off their first win in the final stages of a World Cup, after six draws and 10 defeats in five previous attempts.

A win over Nigeria and two draws, or defeating Greece and losing to Argentina, would seem a reasonable forecast. I am optimistic. Defensively Bulgaria are one of the tightest qualifiers. I take them to qualify and reach the quarter-finals with at least two wins.

BOB VAUGHAN

KEY MAN:

A difficult choice between goalkeeper Boris Mikhailov, Paris hero Emil Kostadinov and Hristo Stoichkov (right) of Barcelona. Stoichkov just gets the nod as the one the opposition fear.

GREECE

WorldCup USA94

IN a comparatively short time, coach Alketas Panagoulias has taken the Greek national soccer team from nowhere to US '94, but recent results have gone badly wrong.

They have no previous experience of a World Cup, though massive support from Greek-Americans may help to atone for that.

Pangoulias and his players are optimistic that they will go beyond the first round, their main objective. They feel that Bulgaria and Nigeria can be beaten, with a place in the second round as a result.

Despite their recent poor form against Cameroon and England, it could happen.

Greeks are known for their passion and Panagoulias is known for his wit. The two combined could pull off a surprise. Panagoulias has joked from the start that Greece and Brazil will playing in the final!

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

KEY MAN:

The 36-year-old AEK Athens midfielder, Tasos Mitropoulos. His playing abilities are outstanding, and the spark that his passion provided throughout the qualifying rounds was a key to success.

Not so surprising

But unlucky Quinn's still full of hope for his team

NIALL QUINN is at the World Cup after all, but he will not be playing. He is fit after a serious knee injury, only to be kept out of the action because of fears that the ligament trouble may recur.

Manchester City striker Quinn, who was first choice for the Republic of Ireland, was hurt last November, during a Premiership match.

And although he is 100 per cent again, his club will not allow him to risk playing in the United States.

"Niall could do himself irreparable damage if he tried to get back too soon," says the City manager, Brian Horton.

"Playing in the World Cup could jeopardise his future."

Quinn is bitterly disappointed. He knows that he will be nearly 32 when the next World Cup comes around, and by then it almost certainly will be too late. But he is philosophical about the situation. "The surgeons told me at the beginning of May that I was fit again," he says. "City chose to ignore that advice. I can see their point, but that doesn't make things easier for me to accept."

The good news for Quinn is that he has joined the ever-increasing band of players commenting on television, with *RTE*, the Republic's TV station. And manager Jack Charlton has invited him to train with the squad.

"I'll be going to all our games, and hopefully helping the team with the preparation," he said.

Quinn was a member of the Republic squad who reached the quarter-finals in Italy four years ago. He knows about the pressures the World Cup bring — pressures which he says are increased for the Irish because of England's absence.

"The media presence around the squad will be about five times as great as it would have been had England got through," he says. "It"s a measure of the success we have achieved." Recent victories over Holland and Germany have added to the Republic's reputation as a team who can bring off unepextced results. Their odds have tumbled from 40-1 to around 20-1, but Quinn points out the dangers of over-confidence.

"Fans are seeing us as world-beaters all of a sudden, and we must not think that way," he says. "Not that Jack Charlton would let them, anyway. There's no chance of anyone getting carried away with their own importance while he's around.

"He realises that the really hard work will begin on the training ground in the week building up to our first game, against Italy on June 18.

"Jack can't do anything about fans or media, but he's great at keeping a player's feet on the ground.

"Now other teams will be taking us more seriously, and I've heard that the Italians are already working on ways to counteract our methods.

"Over the years we've been able to take teams by surprise, but now we've removed that element.

"Even so, those wins against the Dutch and the Germans have given us great heart. They've done wonders for our confidence."

Nobody has profited more than Tony Cascarino, out of the side for two years and just discarded by Chelsea.

"He's going into the world's greatest tournament a foot taller, after scoring one of the goals against Germany. Remember that they had not lost a home match for six years."

Charlton says that Ireland's success is down to a simple formula — a good method used by good players — and that the present team are better than the 1990 version.

Quinn agrees, saying: "We have an excellent squad with some great individuals. The 11 who are likely to start against Italy will make up the best team this country ever put out. Roy Keane is remarkably strong in midfield, and we'll utilise him to the full. Paul McGrath is another player with great strengths.

"Some people call us 'Dad's Army' — but there are some excellent young players as well, such as Keane, Phil Babb, Jason McAteer and Gary Kelly. Gary is our find of the year.

"They'll outrun anybody, regardless of the heat and humidity."

Quinn picks John Sheridan as the player most likely to emerge as one of the stars of the Irish side, if not of the entire tournament.

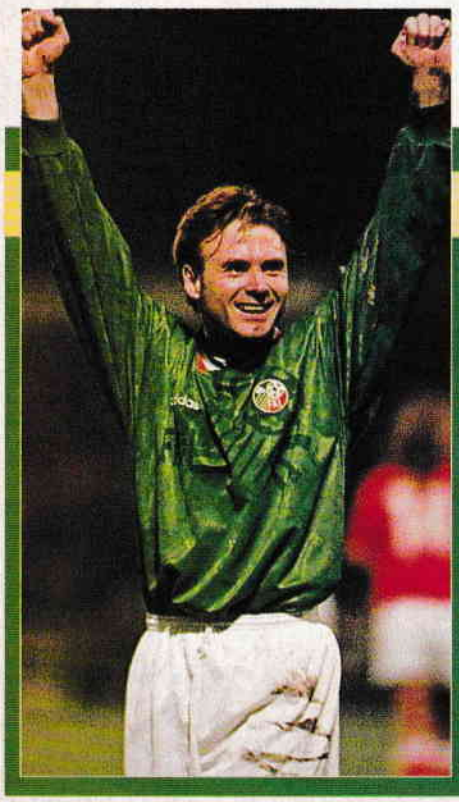
Sheridan is a playmaker given more freedom by a five-man midfield system, and Quinn says: "He'll make a real impact in that role, because he does not have to cover so much ground.

"John's been waiting for eight years to show what he can do, and now he has matured as a man and as a player.

"He's playing better than he ever did, and everyone in the camp is delighted for him — he's a smashing lad and has had a lot of bad luck with injuries.

"We're all expecting a great tournament from him."

MARK IRWIN



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

WorldCup USA94

Anything is possible

A FEW months back I didn't give the Republic of Ireland much chance of getting past the first round. But recent results — especially the 2-0 win against Germany in Hanover — coupled with the introduction of some young players have changed my mind.

Manager Jack Charlton has found some who can fit into his plans straight away. Gary Kelly, Phil Babb and Jason McAteer all impressed in the warm-up games and must be confident of making an appearance or two. In addition Tommy Coyne (left) has rediscovered his zest for the game and he will give extra options whether Charlton plays a 4-4-2 or 4-5-1 formation.

In the past the Irish have been criticised for their long ball game, but they can play good football — remember the Euro '88 Finals — their games against Romania and Italy in the 1990 World Cup, or against England at Wembley in March 1991?

The big problem is the lack of goalscorers, but hopefully the midfielders will help. And Packie Bonner is still not very comfortable with the back-pass.

Three points for a win means that draws will not be enough this time round. The Republic are capable of getting through to the second round. After that, anything is possible!

SEAN CREEDON

KEY MAN:

Roy Keane. He has had a fine season with Manchester United. Provided he can control his temper, Keane should impress. If he can reproduce his club form, the Irish will be happy.

Gamblers, and not anonymous

NORWAY

NORWAY'S presence in a World Cup final tournament for only the second time has brought a welcome surge of interest in soccer in this large, beautiful, under-populated country.

This is likely to be the biggest benefit arising from the journey to America by the modern,vikings, led by the remarkable Egil Olsen.

He Is a fitness freak known for his gambling activities, a lucrative sideline to his post as national team coach.

Olsen's soundly-drilled squad ruined England's hopes of a place in the elite 24, as well as finishing a point ahead of Holland in the qualifying group.

They are a collection of strong, determined, all-for-one batlers, but without a great deal of the individual flair that so often deciedes matches at the highest level.

As a gambler, Olsen may well decide that he has nothing to lose by banking on attack in a group also including Italy, Mexico and the Republic of Ireland,

His defence, even with Thorsvedt in goal and the long-serving Bratseth tidying up, will hardly be able to hold out for ever against the bombardment expected from opponents such as Baggio and Massaro, Zaguinho and Sanchez, Aldridge and Coyne.

With Flo, Fjortoft and Sorloth to call on, Olsen should be happy enough about his team's striking power. There is a healthy degree of confience, too, after a 7-2-1 return from their qualifying programme.

Even so, Norway will do well to reach the second stage from such a difficult group.

By the time they drop out, however, they should have made quite an impression on the watching millions.

OLA PREVIDD

KEY MAN:

Erik Thorstvedt (right). A giant keeper in sight of a century of caps, and experience of the game in Germany, Sweden and England as well as in his own country. He looks likely to have a lot of work to do in the US. How well he does will have a big bearing on Norway's progress.

MEXICO

High hopes – difficult draw

EXPECTATIONS are high, for at least a quarter-final place. This is regarded as Mexico's best-ever team, one that combines the high technical skill that Mexican players have always possessed, with stamina, tactical discipline and — above all— pace, things that have often been lacking in the past.

The team excelled in the 1993 South American championship (Copa America) getting to the final and losing by only 2-1 to Argentina. That was against South American teams. Detractors feel that the new Mexican high-pressure game will not succeed against the Europeans, and gloomily point out that Mexico's first-round group contains three European teams, Italy, the Republic of Ireland and Norway. The doubts were underlined earlier this year by two heavy defeats, a 5-1 loss to Switzerland, and a 4-1 loss to Russia.

Coach Miguel Mejia Baron wrote those off as temporary setbacks, and pointed to a subsequent 2-1 win over Sweden as evidence of the team's real potential.

Fitness doubts hang over veteran Hugo Sanchez (now 35 years old), but scoring power is available from Luis Garcia (with Atletico Madrid) and the tall, left-footer, Luis Roberto Alves, known as Zaguinho. Ignacio Ambriz, the lively midfield captain, is also a regular goalscorer. Goalkeeper Jorge Campos wears blindingly colourful jerseys, and likes to dribble outside the area. He has played centre-forward, and scored goals, in the Mexican First Division.

PAUL GARDNER

KEY MAN:

Ramon Ramirez — ostensibly a full-back, in reality Mr Everywhere. A tenacious tackler and non-stop runner, his superior ball-skills and attacking mentality make him a constant attacking — and goalscoring — threat down the right flank.

ITALY

How near . . . or how far?

ITALIAN World Cup hopes rest on one imponderable conundrum — will a month-long preparation enable coach Arrigo Sacchi to transform his ugly ducklings into swans?

For the harsh reality of Italy's performances to date is that if they play the hesitant, unconvincing soccer shown during the qualifiers, then they are "condemned" not so much to a final (as FA president Antonio Matarrese would have us believe) as to an early flight home from the US.

A transformation, however, is not to be ruled out. For one thing, Sacchi has never before had such an extended national team training camp.

For a second, he finally has settled on his first-choice side, with his only dilemma concerning whether to play Milan's Daniele Massaro or Lazio's Pierluigi Casiraghi or Inter's Nicola Berti along with Roberto Baggio and Giuseppe Signori in attack.

A third reason for believing in a Sacchi revival comes from the buoyant mood of an Italian soccer community much encouraged by Milan's 4-0 rout of Barcelona in the Champions Cup Final. Remember, Milan provide seven of the Italian 22.

If Sacchi does his stuff, if US '94 does not prove a tournament too far for 34-year-old captain and sweeper Franco Baresi, if attacking schemer Roberto Baggio regains fitness and form, and if Giuseppe Signori continues in his recent League form, then Italy obviously have World Cup-winning credentials. But those are major "ifs" on the brink of a tournament that millions of Italians expect to bring a record fourth title.

PADDY AGNEW

KEY MAN:

Roberto Baggio. The onus of making things happen, of providing variety to a potentially all-too-predictable attack, rests on Roberto Baggio. Italy's World Cup run could well depend on whether he can leave behind his recent knee problems and tiredness.

Facing the Press . . . Advocaat announces Gullit's decision.

Stunner!

Gullit out and Van Basten can't get in

HOLLAND entered the last stages of World Cup preparation in confusion, recrimination and bitterness. First Ruud Gullit shocked the country by walking out on the World Cup squad, then Marco Van Basten's bid to gamble on a premature comeback was blocked by horrified officials at Milan.

Less than 24 hours before the deadline for the submission to FIFA of the 22-man squad, national coach Dick Advocaat recalled Anderlecht's John Bosman from his holiday in Marbella.

It all started with Gullit quitting the World Cup squad after playing superbly in the first half of his comeback match, a 3-1 win over Scotland in Utrecht. Those 45 minutes were apparently enough to reawaken all the old doubts and fears which provoked his sulky initial departure after the 2-2 draw against England a year ago.

Van Basten, kept out for more than a year by a chronic ankle injury, then phoned national coach Dick Advocaat to offer himself as substitute on the strength of nothing more sound than recuperative training with first Milan, and then alongside the Italian national team. Van Basten's initial enthusiasm had markedly faded after a meeting with Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani.

Vincenzo Pincolini, the physiotherapist of both Milan and the Italian national team, has supervised Van Basten's rehabilitation, and said: "It's a ridiculous idea. Van Basten is a great player who has worked hard to get himself fit again and he is, at last, very close. But after all he has been through it would be nonsensical for him to go to the World Cup.

"In my opinion he will be OK to start playing gently in some friendly games for Milan in July. But before that? Nothing. All the work would be put at risk."

Advocaat was then left with one last decision: between Bosman and the other standby striker, Hans Gillhaus, of Vitesse Arnhem. Bosman got the vote. As for Gullit, he had turned from being a national hero into, as one commentator put it, "the most hated man in Holland".

For Holland and Dutch fans his withdrawal was a devastating blow. Gullit, at 31, remains one of the world game's great talents and his loss blew a massive hole in their prospects of winning the World Cup.

His decision infuriated the other players. Ronald Koeman, Gullit's successor as captain, said: "This is a real slap in the face for the rest of us. Gullit has been in superb form and his return to the team was going to make a significant difference to our World Cup prospects. He could not have chosen a worse moment. Right now is the time a team need peace and quiet not all the controversy and fuss which we will get."

Gullit and Advocaat announced the new parting of the ways at a subdued joint press conference at the Dutch training camp in Noordwijk. The room was jam-packed with reporters, officials and television crews. Gullit sat with his head bowed for most of the time.

He said: "It is hard for me to sit here, I feel very emotional. I must stress I wanted to play for the Dutch squad very badly and I was eager to go to the States. I won't go into detail. I simply cannot do that at this moment. But I know that everybody will speculate about my reasons. They are welcome to do so. I will explain those reasons later, now is not the right time for me. I won't play ever again for the Dutch national squad."

Advocaat said Gullit had told him of his decision on the Sunday evening after the match against Scotland. Advocaat said: "We spoke for about 15 minutes but without really getting anywhere. It's sad because this past week Gullit showed us he is in very good form. We needed him. I don't understand his decision but I have to respect it and I wish him the best in the future."

Asked if he were surprised Gullit had not given him a reason, Advocaat said: "I do think a coach should be informed about why and how. But he doesn't want to talk about it. As far as I know we did everything to make him comfortable. Gullit told me he would wait until after the World Cup to explain his decision. He thinks this will ease the pressure. But I would ask him to think again: he needs to spell out his position now otherwise our entire campaign will be overshadowed by speculation."

WorldCup USA94

HOLLAND

Individual talent not enough

STAN VALCKX has postponed his wedding, planned for June 17. The simple reason is that Holland's national coach, Dick Advocaat, has selected him for the country's top 22.

To find out why, maybe you had better ask Bobby Robson, who had Valckx twice under his control — at PSV and at Sporting Lisbon.

Valckx is a fighter, and a defender. Holland's reputation for playing pure attacking football may be goodfor the game, but it is not enough.

Advocat is a fighter, just as he was as a player, and knows that is going to be necessary in the United States. The big questions about Holland are whether they have the character to survive a big event.

Individual talent is not enough. Football is a team game. The withdrawal of Ruud Gullit will definitely not help the mood in the Dutch camp either.

Look at their opponents in their first-round group, and you could think that Holland are sitting pretty. In theory, they can all play a bit. Advocaat knows that, but do the Dutch players? Let us hope his two scouts, Leo Beenhakker and Wim Jansen, are coming up with all the answers.

KEY MAN:

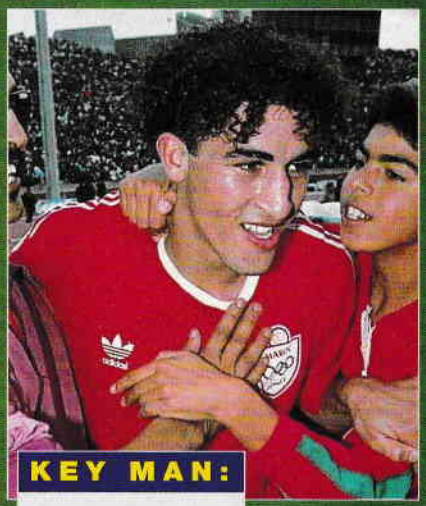
Ronald Koeman, who hits untypically Dutch long passes. He is also a free-kick and penalty specialist.

ERIC NICHOLLS

WorldCup USA94

MOROCCO

All-Arab clash will be crucial



KEY MAN:

Mustapha Hadji (above). He has yet to reach double figures in international caps, but has been an inspirational selection in midfield since his debut last October.

Youth and inexperience will count against the Lions of the Atlas as they make their third World Cup outing.

But they have been handed a lifeline by the draw and should beat Saudi Arabia to claim at least three points in the opening round. This might be enough to go through.

Pre-tournament preparation has not been as intense as coach Abdellah Blinda had hoped for, but an away win over Luxembourg and a credible performance in losing 3-1 to Argentina did no harm.

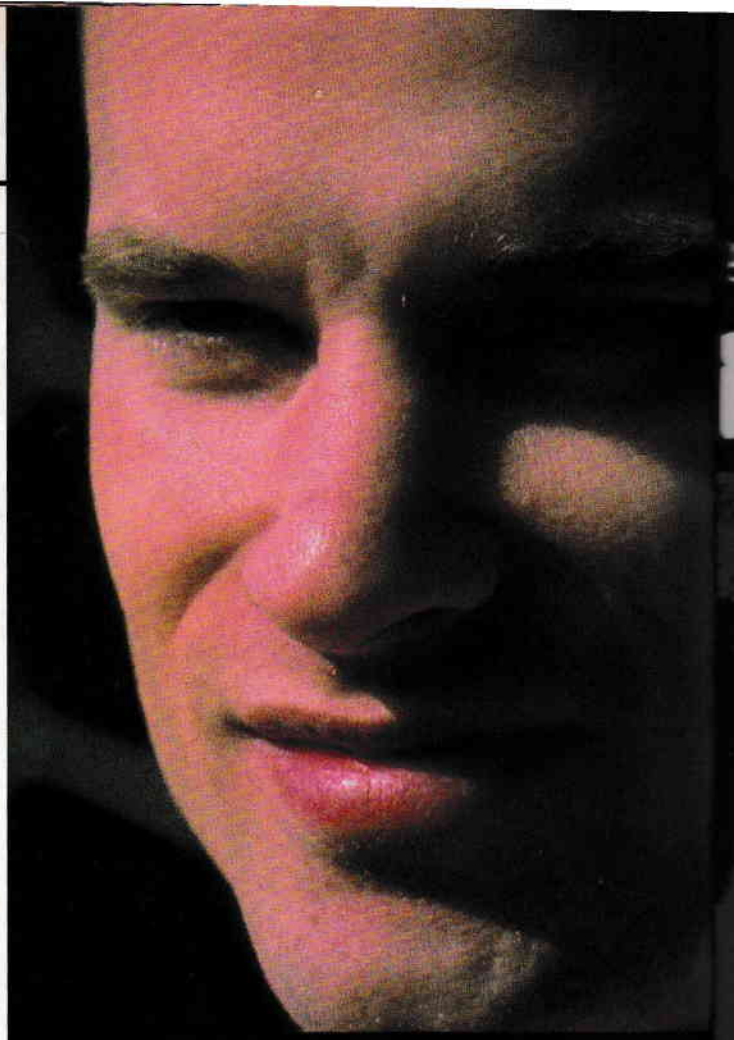
These Moroccans are certainly the best team to have come out of the country, although they were somewhat fortunate to qualify for the finals.

The experience of this tournament alone could stand them in good stead and make them a much more formidable foe for the African qualifiers for the next edition in 1998.

MARK GLEESON

Group F continues on page 32

FOUR OF THE MAJOR FIGURES IN THE WORLD CUP WERE QUESTIONED BY DUTCH JOURNALIST **ROGER LINSEY** ABOUT THEIR VIEWS. IN THIS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW, LINSEY LISTS THE QUESTIONS AND THE REPLIES HE RECEIVED FROM THE BIG FOUR — LOTHAR MATTHAUS, CAPTAIN OF THE GERMAN WINNERS FOUR YEARS AGO, BRAZILIAN STRIKER ROMARIO, ROBERTO BAGGIO OF ITALY, AND DENNIS BERGKAMP OF HOLLAND.



FOUR

QUESTIONS

A: How big is the coach's influence on your country's team, and how important is your role?

B: Who is the key player in your squad?

C: Is there a superstar successor to players such as Pele, Cruyff and Maradona?

D: How do you rate yourself on the world scale?

E: Will there be a third successive Argentina-Germany final?

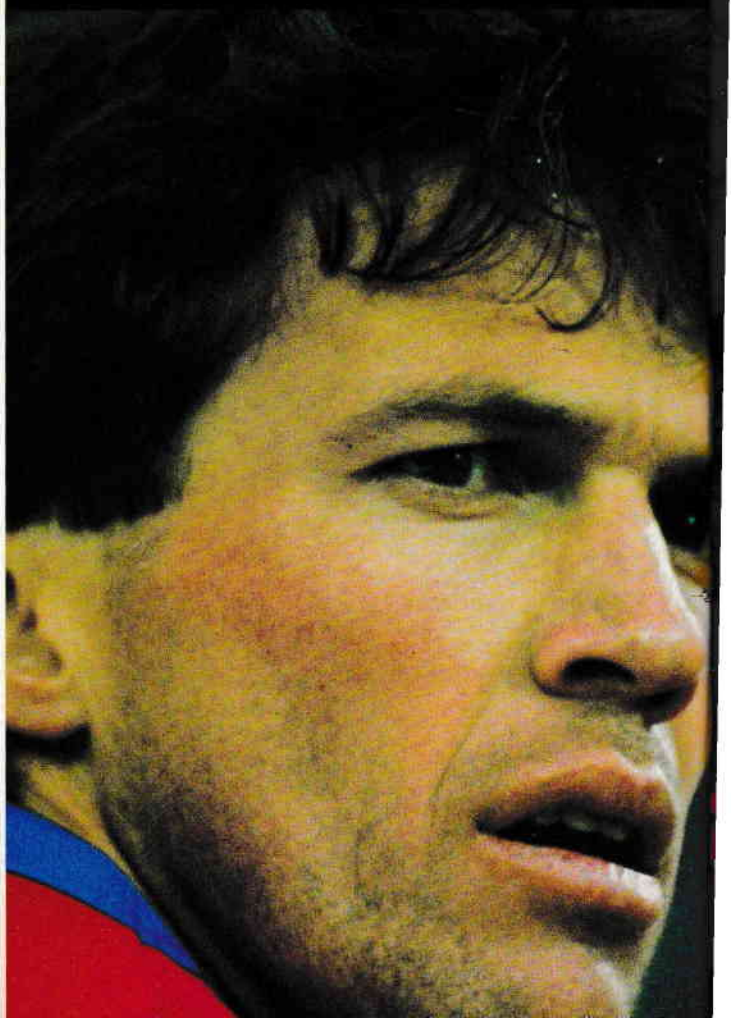
F: Do you think US '94 will be the finest World Cup yet?

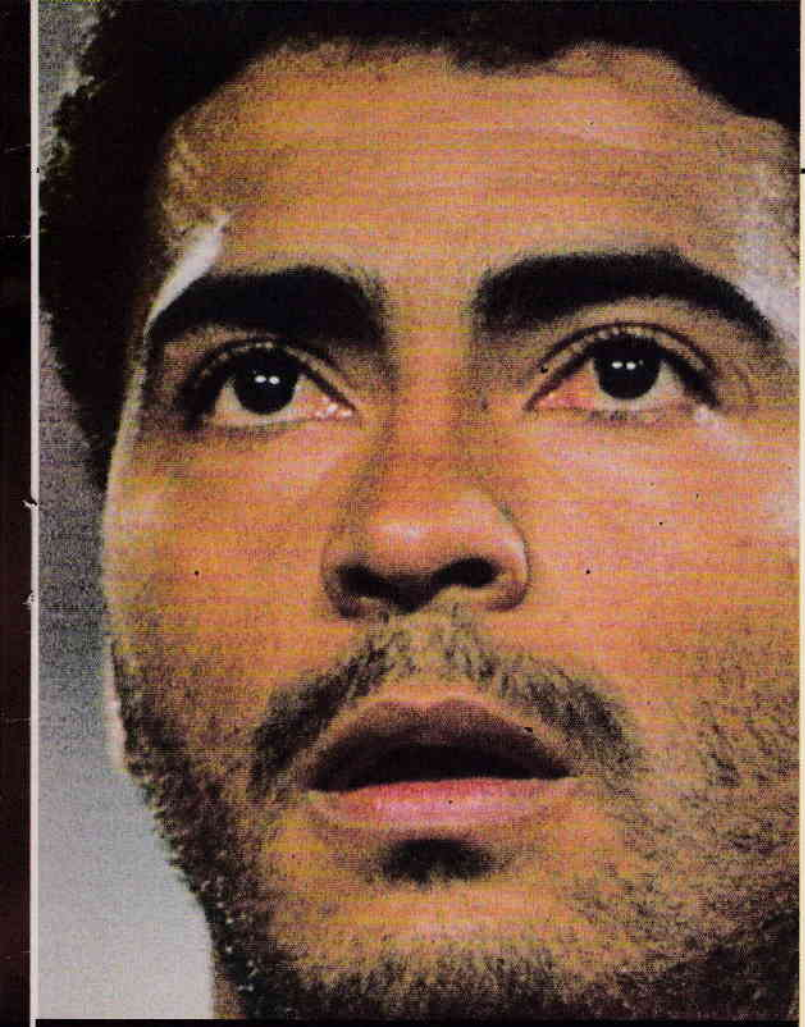
LOTHAR MATTHAUS
(Bayern Munich & Germany)

A: "Once in a while Berti Vogts and I talk about leadership, but I don't like that expression much. A leader is just as good as the rest of the team. As a chef you need good cooks next to you. I need good players next to me. I help my fellow players, give the newcomers advice, call them to order. They don't have 15 years of experience, and I do. But that doesn't mean I'm better than they are. We are a team. I want to be successful, and that is only possible with a team. Once play starts, what can a trainer do? He chooses the line-up, but he can't predict the outcome of a match. Every player has to think as an individual and has to react like an individual. That's why it's good if the trainer listens to the young players, to know how they feel about the situation. To create a relationship. To make them responsible."

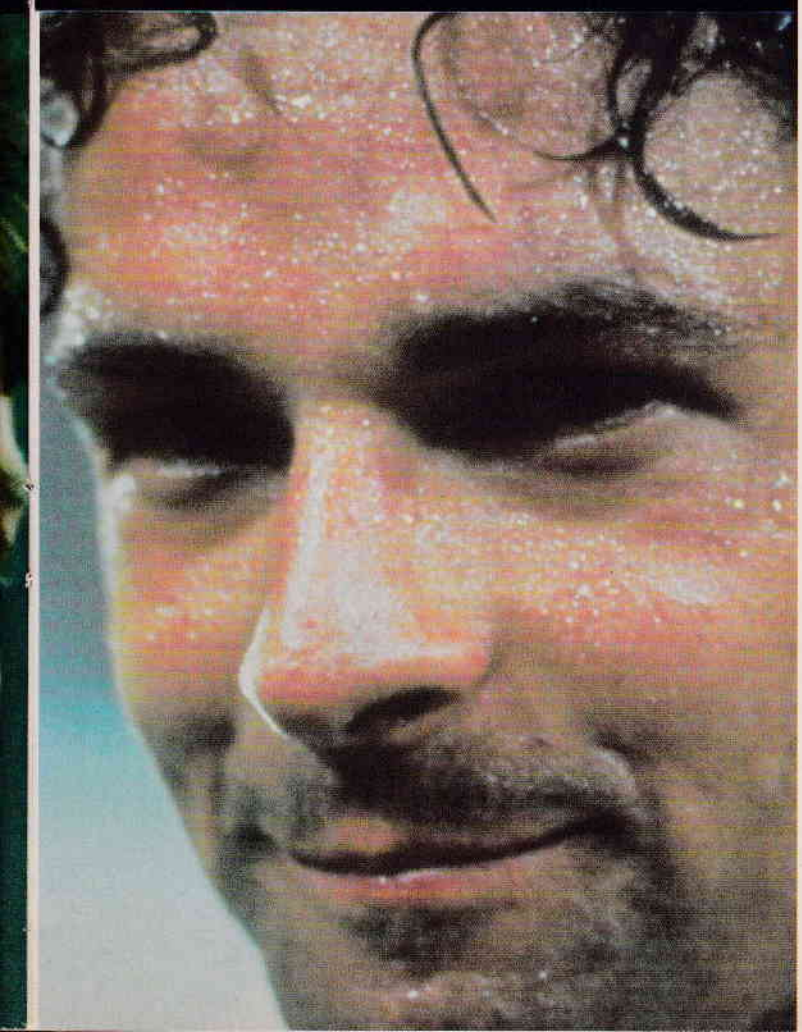
B: "Some players cause trouble if they are not first choice, but everybody has his tasks, no matter if you're 1 or 22. Every individual has a certain responsibility with regard to his colleagues, 1 with regard to 22, and the other way round."

C: "Not yet, I doubt if such a player will ever break through again. There are a lot of special talents nowa-





PLAY



days, remarkable, exceptional players, Maradona, Cruyff and Pele were all men of genius. Players of a higher level. Platini and Beckenbauer approached that level, but the development of international soccer does not permit it now. Everything has become fast and hard. A match is more and more a battle."

D: "I can't answer that. Players can't be placed on a ranking like tennis. One scores goals another prevents goals. Which is more important? A striker is good if he scores a lot, but he can only score a lot if the defenders and midfielders set him up. You're only as good as your team. The 11 best players aren't automatically the best team. There has to be harmony. That's why it's difficult to rank yourself. Apart from that I don't judge my own performances. Others have to do that. I'm satisfied, but I can't say I'm better or worse than the other players. Rather worse than better, probably. I'm 32 now. Other guys are coming up. I was Man of the Series in 1990, but only because we became world champions and because I had good fellow players. What would I have been if the team had not survived the quarter-finals?"

E: "At the Copa America I saw that Argentina again have a team who can accomplish a lot. As long as it's not going to be a final like 1990. We had the best team and became the rightful champions. But it was a pity, that a country like Argentina with that team reached the final. It was anti-propaganda for soccer. The same applied to Germany in 1982. At that time we weren't one of the better teams, just one of the most fortunate. German teams for one reason or another always give that extra 10 per cent in the important matches. Some teams may be different: if I don't win today, I'll win tomorrow. A German is not like that. More than ever I expect surprises at the World Cup. The difference in the level all over the world is small."

F: "I don't dare to say, but there will be a beautiful World Cup waiting for us. I'm convinced of that. It's different. New, fresh, pleasantly different. The American will take soccer into his heart. That's why we're going to experience some beautiful matches. Exciting. Dynamic. Exactly what the Americans love."

ROMARIO De Souza Faria
(Barcelona & Brazil)

A: "Every team needs a trainer, he has to be a personality, who dares to make decisions. And lines up the right people, in the technical, tactical and mental sense. The players are a lot more important, no matter who the coach is. And Brazil have the right players. I'm important, just like Bebeto is important, and Rai. The only thing I have to do is put on my shirt and score goals! Nothing more, nothing less. And if a team play attacking soccer, then it's easy for me. It's the same with Barcelona. It's the easiest club for playing soccer. Just playing, nothing more."

B: "A team can not be dependable on one, two or three players. It was like that with PSV in Holland, and that wasn't good. The Brazilian team have many good players. Just like Brazil in 1982, a better group is hardly imaginable. It's time that we, after such a long period without a World Cup title, again prove that we play the best soccer. We have the motivation, the trust, the confidence, the mentality, the quality."

C: "There is no successor to these three. There are big names: Roberto Baggio, Michael Laudrup, me. One of us may grow to be a successor of those players. But I don't believe we'll dominate like that. I'm 28, Baggio is 27, Michael is 30, Maradona, Cruyff, Pele were stars at a very young age. I will never be like Pele or Maradona. That level is impossible for me to reach."

D: "Last year I was asked the same question, and said: seventh or eighth. But things have changed. Some players have dropped out, I play for a different club. I hope to become better. In a world championship you make your name."

E: "No! The final will be Brazil versus another country. Because we are the best, because we'll get through to the final and win. My dream final would be Brazil against Brazil. The people deserve the World Cup. We are crazy about soccer. And I'm not saying that as a player, but as a Brazilian. Soccer in Brazil is sport number 1,2,3,4,5, and 6. There is volleyball, there is basketball, there is Formula 1, but soccer is everything. If we win, we party. If we lose, we cry. We've cried a lot in recent years."

continued over

QUESTIONS

A: How big is the coach's influence on your country's team, and how important is your role?

B: Who is the key player in your squad?

C: Is there a superstar successor to players such as Pele, Cruyff and Maradona?

D: How do you rate yourself on the world scale?

E: Will there be a third successive Argentina-Germany final?

F: Do you think US '94 will be the finest World Cup yet?

continued

F: "Everything depends on what we, the players, show on the pitch. I expect a lot. We must provide the spectacle — not the side-effects. It doesn't matter where the World Cup is held. The people come from everywhere to watch. Because soccer is soccer."

ROBERTO BAGGIO
(Juventus & Italy)

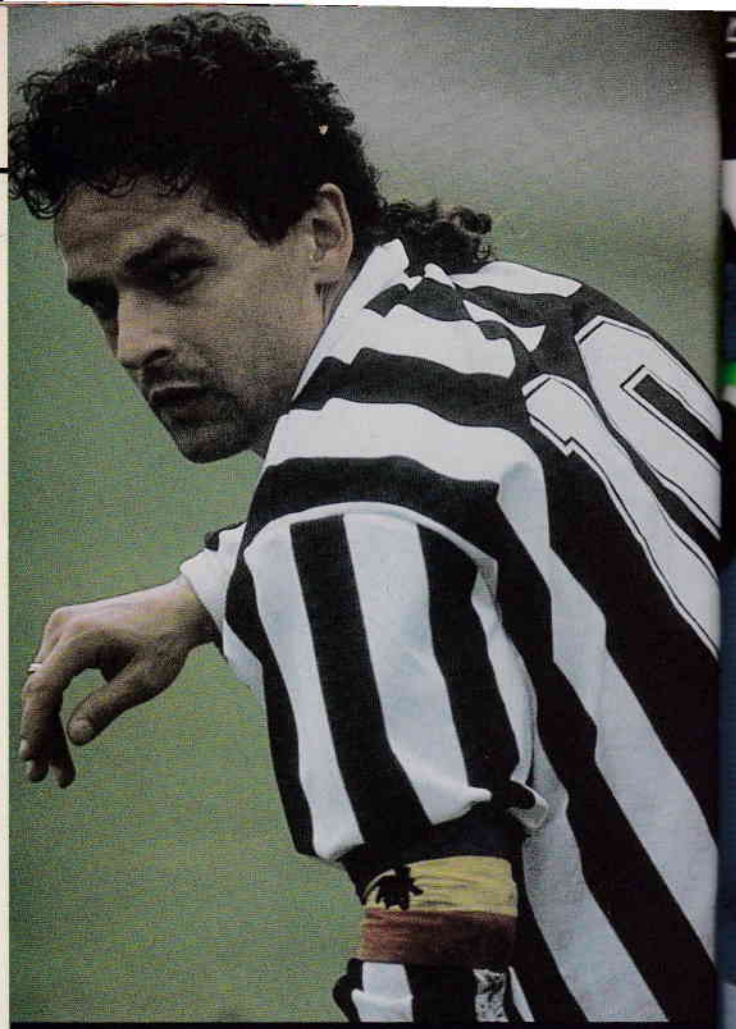
A: "Two factors make the work of the coach very difficult. First, the extreme pressure from the outside, and secondly, you don't play every Sunday. Sacchi always has players who are together only for a short period. At Milan he introduced a new type of play, unprecedented attacking according to Italian standards. Pressure, pressure, pressure. To master that as a team, every player has to be aware of his duty and be sharp. With the national team that is a lot more difficult. That's why Sacchi talks with the players so often. With all players. Nobody has a special relationship with him, me neither. But if I have a different opinion, I say so. We all do. You can't make mistakes in the national team. Everybody has to feel good, otherwise you can't reach the desired performances. Something extra is expected of me. I acknowledge that responsibility. But it's difficult, very difficult at times. Especially with the national team. More pressure, less confidence."

B: "The collective decides the eventual strength. The trainer decides how we play, he has to form the correct composition, adjusted to each other. The average decides the level. Decisions are often made in a split second, by individuals not by the team. A team depends on a player who heads for the goal by himself, but the player depends on the team to put him in such a position. So it's an interaction of collection and individual. The power, the level is produced by the collective, the result by the individual. Therefore all players are important."

C: "We are talking about giants, the elite of international soccer history. I've only got two words for that: exceptional class. I don't know who was the best of the three. They played at different times, under different circumstances. And I don't know who their successor is. It's not me, that's for sure. The difference between good and super level is getting smaller. Not because super is getting less, but because good is getting better."

D: "They chose me as a European and World Player of the Year in 1993. But if you ask me to compose my own top 10, I won't put myself in it. No, you don't do that of yourself. I just have to show what I'm capable of. I hope there is still enough time to get better, to reach perfection."

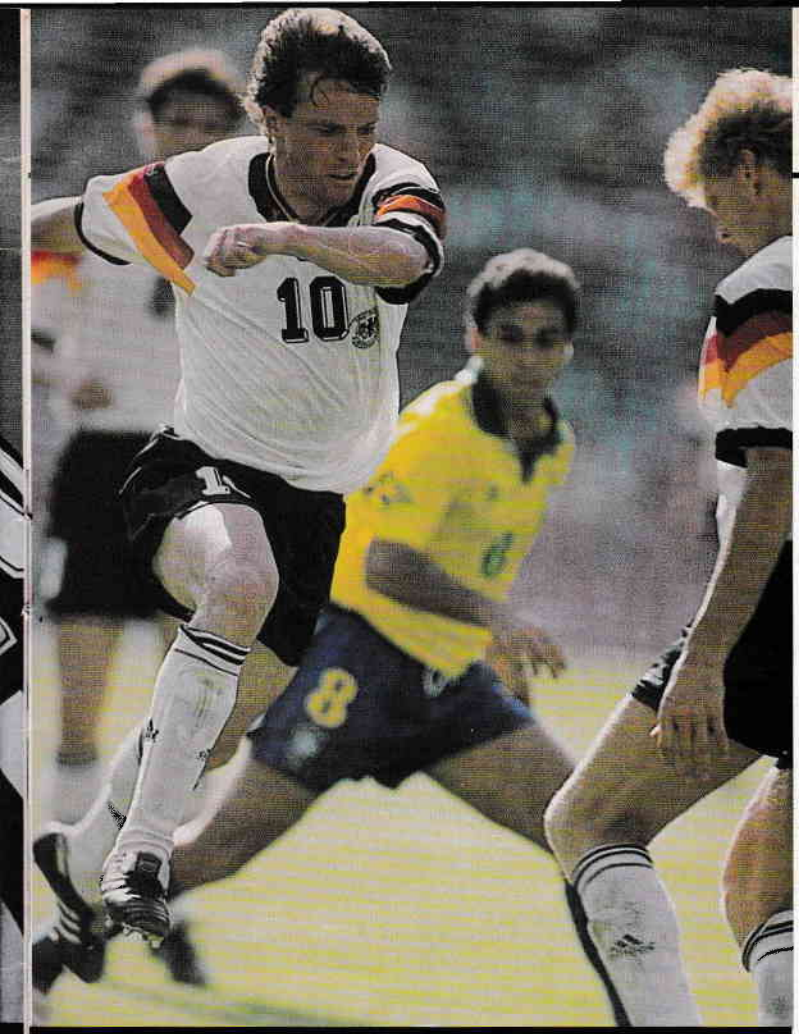
E: "During a World Cup, the quality of the top countries does not differ much. During such a tournament fitness is very important, mentally and physically. Russia played very well in Mexico, but stagnated. And why? Physically they couldn't cope any more. Argentina played badly in 1990. Half of the players were suspended or injured. But mentally they were strong as iron. The semi-



QUOTES

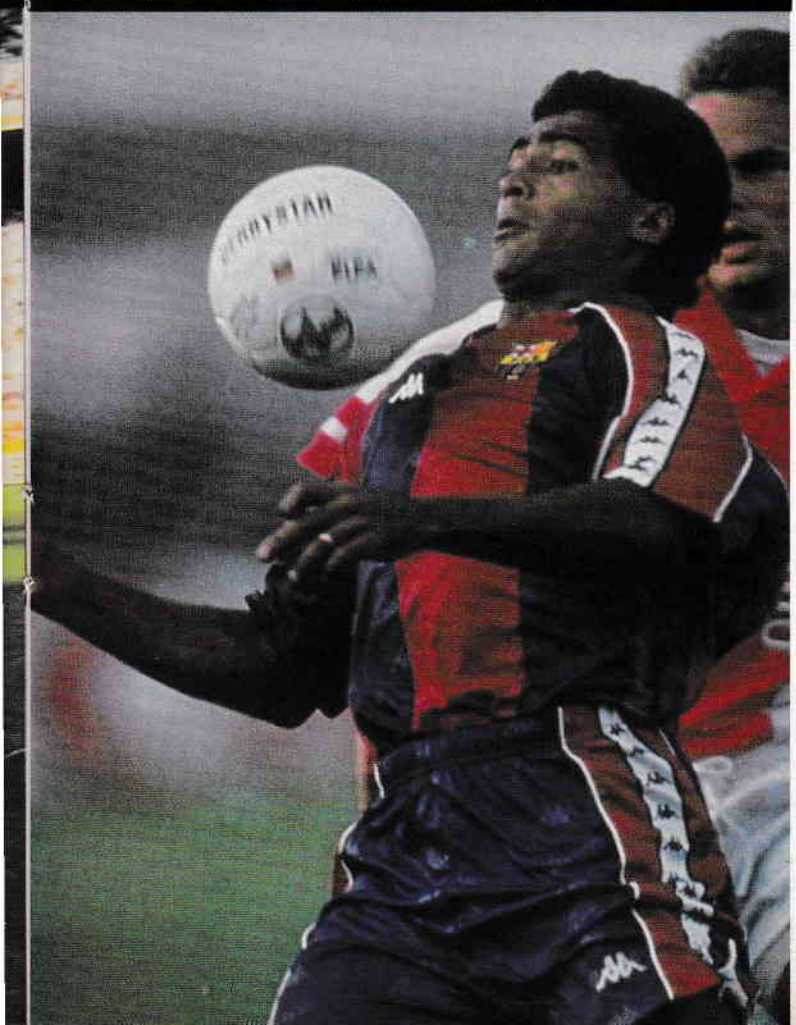
BAGGIO ON RELAXATION: 'I'm a hunter. I was in paradise when I we hunting with my father. After the season I usually go to Argentina, to a ve small place away from the crowds, hunting. It's natural, part of my being'

BERGKAMP ON THE WORLD CUP: 'It's work. Not war, but no vac tion either. It will be hard, and hot. Afterwards, we'll be really tired. Only th does the holiday start'



MATTHAUS ON THE NUMBERS GAME: 'Number 10 is always associated with stars, such as Pele and Maradona and Platini. When I was at Inter, I was asked what number I wanted. I replied "Eight" but the coach Trapattoni, gave me 10. "You're no Platini, but to me you're just as important," he said'

ROMARIO ON NATIONAL FERVOUR: 'The feeling I get when standing on the pitch while the national anthem is played is indescribable. You're looking at 150,000 people who are looking at you. Then the music starts. That's emotion. That's life. Brazilian life'



final against us was a lottery. One team dominated constantly, the other had one chance, scored and played in the final. I love Argentina. It's a beautiful country with wonderful people. But Argentina reached the final and I couldn't believe it. They couldn't, either. It's no coincidence that they have won two World Cups and have reached the final twice since 1978. That's why Germany-Argentina is quite possible."

F: "If we win, it will be. If you win the World Cup, you've won everything. The Italian Championship and the Cup, the Champions League and the Intercontinental Cup — all four titles together united in that one cup. In the United States the World Cup will be different: Playing soccer with a roof over your head is strange. But a World Cup is a World Cup, for a player the most beautiful thing there is, the absolute maximum you can achieve. I expect a lot of it, in every sense. It will be popular in the US. Soccer will flow through the veins of the people like in all the other countries."

DENNIS BERGKAMP

(Internazionale & Holland)

A: "A coach must be objective and honest. Dick Advocaat is honest. Everybody is equal for him. He has had a lot of criticism, but I really want to run those extra metres for him. A Dutch coach tactically has a disadvantage. All Italians play in Italy and play more or less the same system. Dutchmen play everywhere in Europe, in all sorts of systems. The coach has to decide how to play and consult with the players. Talk. Discuss. That works well with Advocaat. It's my duty to add something extra to the team. Goals. Assists. Everything. Put people alone in front of goal. Make decisive actions. Score. I've a rather important duty in the Dutch national team."

B: "Every player is one of the 22. Nothing more. Nothing less. Every player has his own duty and has to carry it out as good as possible. I have to attack, score goals. A defender has a less spectacular role. But we all need each other. Everybody has to be motivated. Everybody has to strive after the same goal. In short, a combination of factors decide the power of a team."

C: "What has such and such a player accomplished? How important was he for his team? How long did he play at that level? Maradona rose high above everybody in 1986. I don't know if that will ever happen again. Nobody excels at this moment. It comes to taste as well. What do you like, what do you expect from a player?"

D: "That's difficult. Van Basten should be ranked first. He was always my big example. Marco has everything — style, technique, devotion. Would I be in the top 10? Sometimes I would, other times not. It's hard to say. It's often so temporary, Asprilla for example. At a certain period he was incredibly good. Very valuable for the team. And then it got less. In my early days my idol was Glenn Hoddle. If I was playing in the streets, I always wanted to be him. He was everything to me. That style. The calmness. Two-legged. Flexible. Beautiful to look at. Nowadays, Romario, is great. Gascoigne looks heavy, slow. But at times he outplays three men and then you think: how does he do that? He has fantastic technique."

E: "It could be, but what about us? Of course we've the potential to become champions. Experienced players and young players, individual qualities, a lot of soccer capabilty. Germany and Argentina always come a long way, but we don't have to be afraid of anybody. Motivation won't be the problem. For some of the guys it will be their last World Cup as a player. A last chance. We have a good team now. We have to perform well."

F: "The organisation will be fantastic, but I'm curious about how they'll react to us. With Ajax we played against the US in Washington. They loved a trick in the middle of the pitch, but one-touch soccer they couldn't appreciate. Outside the soccer you don't have to worry. The show element will be well taken care of and that's an extra. It will be something beautiful, nice for the players to be part of. As a child I dreamed of Wembley. That dream came true last year. This summer another dream will come true: playing in a world championship. I still remember how we used to play in the hallway at home during earlier World Cups. I can still hear myself shout: I'm Graziani! That's why I like it so much when I see children playing soccer and I hear them shouting: I'm Dennis Bergkamp, I'm Dennis Bergkamp. A nicer compliment doesn't exist."

BELGIUM

Making the most of a kind draw

KEY MAN:

Josip Weber. Born in Croatia but a Belgian citizen since February. Scored 135 goals in six seasons with Cercle Brugge. Top scorer in the Belgian League for the last three seasons, and scored five on his Belgium debut in a 9-0 win against Zambia.

BELGIUM go to their fourth successive World Cup in a positive mood.

With the exception of a small row between national coach Paul Van Himst and striker Luis Oliveira of Cagliari, the national squad have had a trouble-free preparation.

When Van Himst announced his squad on May 17, the media hardly raised an eyebrow. He picked three keepers, eight defenders, six midfielders and five strikers.

The "extra defender" was necessary, Van Himst predicted, because this World Cup will be dominated by red and yellow cards. He expects many suspensions.

The first match is against Morocco, and leading defender Philippe Albert (now Anderlect, but next season in Italy or in Munich) will be missed. His suspension, due to a red card in the game against the Czechs, means that Pascal Reinier of Club Brugge will come in.

Nobody in Belgium expects the team to be the new champions. But like all Belgian teams they will be very hard to beat, and that always was a solid basis to build on.

The draw has been fortunate. Saudi Arabia must be the weakest of the teams and Morocco's results are not very impressive, either. A place in the second round seems certain, and from that moment on further progress will be a lottery.

Perhaps a quarter final — as in 1990 — though not a semi-final, as in 1986.

JAN-HERMAN DE BRUIJN

SAUDI ARABIA

Even money for no goals

A TEAM in a real mess, looking destined for a dismal World Cup. Even to draw a match in their group (v Holland, Morocco and Belgium) would absolutely defy footballing logic.

British bookmakers are offering even odds that the side will not score a single goal through the competition.

A 5-1 defeat by Greece recently said more about the cossetted preparation of the team than any gulf between European and Asian soccer standards. After the defeat Saudi football authorities reacted with panic, bringing in six new players and re-jigging the line-up.

The Saudis were one of the first sides to reach the US, and have been trying to play their way into form in the past weeks. Coach Jorge Solari certainly knows where the problems lie and could work some last-minute face-saving solutions during this time to avoid humiliation.

But his hands will be tied by the Saudi royal family, who have gone to the US to "manage" all aspects of the team. As incredible as it might seem to readers more used to competitive standards of European or Latin football, Solari and his Saudi team are run by an informal royal committee made up of as many princes as attend.

Another problem which adds to the frailty of the side is their age, averaging exactly 24 years per player.

With panic in the air, a hamstrung coach and a power-happy royal dynasty, the team need especially wise heads on young shoulders if they are to get out of this mess.

KEY MAN:

Majed Abdullah. "The Desert Pele" is a player of real class who would have had broader and more international acclaim if previous Saudi Arabian teams had regularly toured outside the middle East and North America. Abdullah's sharp attacking skills will be plain to see and he has the charisma and authority to try to lift his team from the administration's off-the-field messes.

But at 35 he is terribly fragile, and may not last the full first round.

JONATHAN SHALLARD

Winning ways

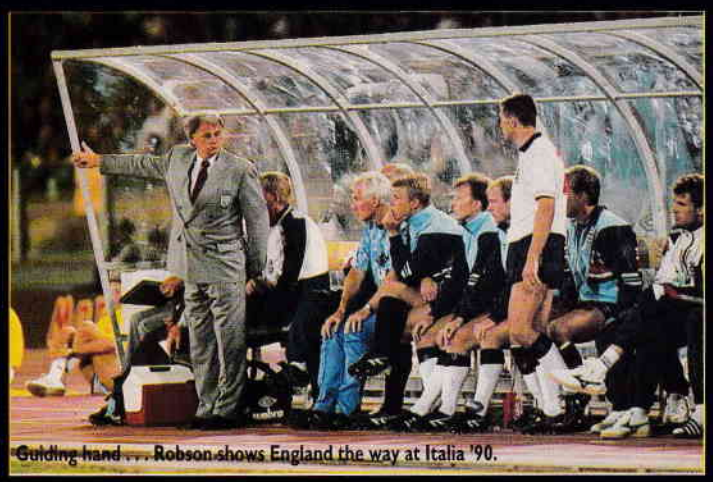
How to keep a squad happy, by Robson

NOBODY knows better than Bobby Robson, now with FC Porto, the pressures facing a World Cup manager. In Mexico in 1986 and then again in Italy in 1990 Robson was at the centre of the World Cup whirlwind. This is his message to the "new boys" among the 24 managers heading for US '94:

'You have to be positive. You have qualified for the finals so you must go with one intention: to win. Nothing else. You have to be committed, confident and determined to do the very best you can.

First, you have to know you selected the right squad. Not only the best players with the best technical skills and athletic qualities. You also need players who will get along and be good friends, who will have the right spirit because you are all going to be together in a claustrophobic little world for four weeks at least. In 1990, England were away together for seven weeks: three weeks preparation to acclimatise to the heat and then the full distance of the tournament because we reached the semi-finals and then the third place match.

Players are young . . . fit . . . good-looking . . . have money. They're a problem. You have to control them. Two weeks is no problem. After two weeks, problems. You have to take away the boredom and keep them occupied. You have to play and train of course but there are many other hours in between. You need good hotels, good food and good beds so the players can sleep well. You're not on holiday but a hotel or training centre with a swimming pool is essential. The players can swim each day and sunbathe. Not too much, though. It's got to be monitored for their own sake.


Guiding hand . . . Robson shows England the way at Italia '90.

You have to have television, videos, cards, board games, reading material. Something to keep them occupied 12 hours of the day. You have to make the players feel important, so they don't get homesick, that you are in a big competition and you are all in it together — the stars as well as the reserves.

That's why selecting the right personalities is so important. With England in Italy we had Paul Gascoigne. A wonderful player but also a comic who could bring a smile to the group.

Training is very important. How? When? How long? What type? Be careful you don't produce two teams — those who play and those who do not play. It's easy if you are playing the games — you're happy, you're involved. The problem is with those who are not in the team. Maybe they want to go home. But they are just as important as the others because you WILL get injuries, you WILL need to make changes for tactical reasons.

So, always make sure you talk to the players who are not playing, who don't play, every day. You need to keep them feeling confident, interested, important.

Training has to be different for the two groups. Those who are not playing need more training to maintain fitnes and sharpness. You need to top up their fitness. You need physiotherapy to help keep up their physical capacity.

One of the biggest problems is the Press. They infringe upon our lives. They are impatient. They are giving the football to the world and you have to give time to them. You have your own Press who will be very demanding. Then you will have the foreign Press. You have to give them all time. But limit it. Try to make it short, quick, precise or they will keep you talking and that can cause trouble.

Their job is to create news; your job is to get results. Make it one hour or you will be talking for five. And you, as the manager, need time for yourself and your own thoughts.

Keep the players away from friends. Everyone wants to come to your hotel or training camp. Friends, contacts, sponsors. You have to learn to say No. You are there for one specific reason — to play football, to do the best for your country — and outsiders, however well-meaning, can get in the way.

Discipline is very important on the field and off it. On the team bus. At training. Departure times. All this is important because you have to get the best out of your players and the world is looking at you.

The back-up team is very important. You take 22 players. Their fitness and health and condition is vital. Get that right and you have a chance. Diet is vital. That's why we weighed our players every two days. It's vital you know they are getting the right balance of carbohydrates, protein, electrolyte intake.

Last but not least: win the first match because if you lose you are immediately under pressure.

So, good luck, son — you'll need it!'

KEIR RADNEDGE

INTER VIEW

Brown looks back

COLIN JOSE MEETS THE LONE SURVIVOR FROM A 1930 WORLD CUP SQUAD

In England . . . Brown during his spell with Manchester United.

ON JUNE 13, 1930, a party of 16 American soccer players, with a manager, a coach and a trainer, sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey, on the SS Munargo.

They were going on a great adventure, a journey that was to take them to the first World Cup played in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Among them was a young Scot, James Brown, who was 21 at the time. Today, at 85, Brown is the only one of the group still alive.

He was born in Troon on December 31, 1908, and left Scotland in September 1927 to join his father in the United States.

Like most boys growing up along the Scottish borders, young Jim had been forced to play rugby and not soccer in school and consequently had played mostly juvenile soccer, in after-school hours, before crossing the Atlantic.

In the US he began playing for Bayonne Rovers in New Jersey, where his abilities were quickly recognised.

Soon he was playing in the professional American Soccer League for Newark, then New York Nationals, and at the time of his selection as outside-right in the US World Cup team he was with New York Giants. He was declared a professional three months before the team sailed, he says.

Brown's recollections of that trip to Uruguay and of the three games the US team played in that first World Cup are vivid, despite the years.

Talking about the first goal the Americans scored, against Belgium, he says: "I crossed the ball from the right wing, a bad cross, but it hit the bar and bounced out to the corner of the penalty area, where Bart McGhee hit it first time with his left foot."

McGhee's second goal should have been ruled out for offside claims Brown but he had a hand in the third, crossing for Bert Patenaude to score.

"Patenaude was probably the best centre-forward I ever knew," says Brown. "He was deceptively fast and had a great first-time shot."

After the win over Belgium, the Americans played Paraguay and had another good day. "The result was never in doubt," says Brown. He insists that Patenaude scored all the American goals in the 3-0 victory, but one was recorded as an own goal. "Patenaude didn't get credit for what would have been the first World Cup hat-trick, and I don't like that," Brown adds. During this tournament the composition of the American team was the subject of some controversy and, according to Brown, Belgium protested to FIFA that the US were a foreign team and not made up of Americans. In fact 11 of the 16 players were born in the United States.

"We used the WM formation — the style was always the same in those days," Brown goes on. "We used long passes, sending the ball 50 yards upfield, but the Latin teams used a short-passing game. In Montevideo our method became known as the American style."

The styles clashed in the semi-final. Two victories in a tournament with only 13 contestants had enabled the Americans to get within one more win of the final, but their game suffered as a result of the size of the pitch in the Centenario Stadium, built especially for the tournament. In the first two games the US had played at the much smaller Central Park, home of Nacional. "We didn't realise the difference in the size at first," said Brown. "Every time we crossed the ball it was 10 yards short."

Like most of the Americans, Brown

In Uruguay . . . Brown (left, front) with the rest of the 1930 US World Cup squad.

was not impressed with the refereeing of Jean Langenus in the semi-finals against Argentina, and would have preferred Jose Macias, who had taken their first two games . . . even though he was an Argentinian.

"Langenus allowed Argentina to kick us all over the field," he claims. "The tactics they were allowed to get away with were unbelievable. In my case the left-back was throwing mud in my face the entire game."

For others the problems were more serious. Centre-half Ralph Tracy broke a leg early on, goalkeeper Jim Douglas was badly hurt and left-half Andy Auld played nearly half the game with a rag stuffed in his mouth to stop the bleeding after a kick.

Even so the score was only 1- 0 at half-time and according to Brown the goal was caused by the newly-laid turf. "A high ball was hit into our penalty area, Jimmy Douglas called for it, but it hit a dead spot and didn't bounce and he was stranded," he said.

Argentina went on to win 6-1, with Brown scoring for the US, but lost 4-2 to Uruguay in the final.

When the World Cup was over, Brown returned to the States to find the professional game there on its knees. So he went to England and was signed by Manchester United, where he played from 1932 until early in 1934, appearing in 40 Football League games and scoring 17 goals.

He then had one match with Brentford and four with Tottenham before ending his career at non-league Guildford.

"They got you a job and paid more money," he says. "I scored eight goals in one game for them, but later on, running in on goal, I made a suicide dive and bust my leg."

Brown returned to the US to play, and later to coach. "We enjoyed soccer better then than today. We never saw a blackboard."

How much was he paid for playing in the World Cup of 1930? The answer is $250 and a suit of clothing.

US WORLD CUP SQUAD – *1930*

Player	*Club*
Andy AULD	Providence Gold Bugs
Michael BOOKIE	Cleveland Slavia
Jim BROWN	New York Giants
James DOUGLAS	New York Nationals
Tom FLORIE	New Bedford Whalers
Jim GALLAGHER	New York Nationals
Jim GENTLE	Philadelphia FC
Billy GONSALVES	Fall River Marksmen
Bart McGHEE	New York Nationals
Arnie OLIVER	Providence Gold Bugs
George MOORHOUSE	New York Giants
Bert PATENAUDE	Fall River Marksmen
Phil SLONE	New York Giants
Ralph TRACY	St Louis Ben Miller
Frank VAUGHN	St Louis Ben Miller
Alex WOOD	Holley Carburetors (Detroit)

Manager: Wilf Cummings.
Coach: Bob Millar.
Trainer: Jock Coll.

US BY PAUL GARDNER

Nearly all set . . .

But plenty of problems remain

MAKE no mistake, the World Cup is beginning to attract attention in the US. Television stations are featuring an increasing number of soccer specials, most of them not particularly good, but soccer that's getting on the screen.

Mostly on cable stations. The major networks have done next to nothing, including *ABC*, the flagship station for the World Cup telecasts.

Newspapers? Much more coverage than usual, though again the quality is poor. Far too many sports editors still seem to feel that nobody will read a soccer story. Such a story must be liberally sprinkled with contrived cross references to other American sports, all the "technical" terms (eg, corner kick) must be explained and the heading probably will have to include the phrase "get their kicks".

The result is a wave of not wildly exciting "soccer" stories which really deal with the political situation in Romania, or the economical situation in Cameroon, or the drugs situation in Colombia. The root problem, of course, is that so many of the stories are written by journalists who know nothing of the sport, and quite possibly don't even like it.

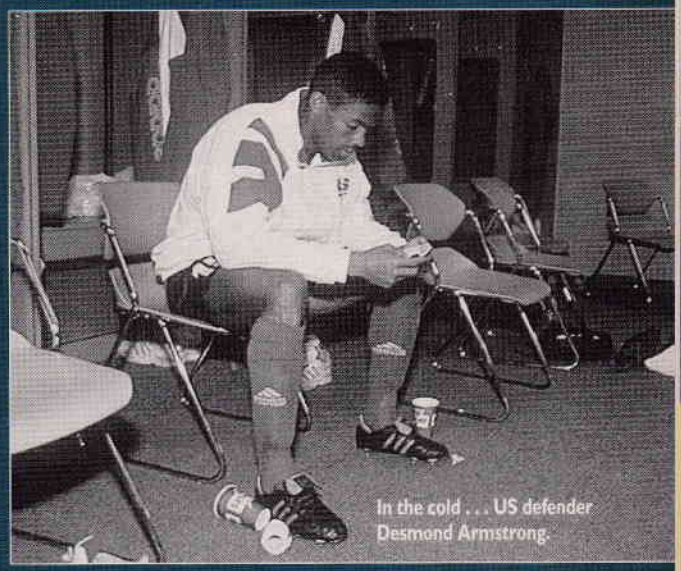
But . . . four or five new soccer magazines have sprung up and there are plans to publish a special daily World Cup-only newspaper during the tournament. The Legacy Tour wends its way throughout the US, a convoy of trucks full of soccer and World Cup sideshows and tents . . . setting up shop briefly in Dallas and Los Angeles and New York and so on. Supposedly that's the real World Cup they put on show at each city.

There's merchandise, too, hats and shirts mostly. And if you know where to look in the newspapers you'll find the telephone numbers of people who want to sell or trade World Cup tickets. Even though the actual tickets were not supposed to be distributed until early June.

It's not exactly World Cup fever, but it will have to do for the moment. The idea of the whole country set alight by the tournament . . . well, that's not going to happen. Excitement in the nine cities staging games there will come when the foreign fans arrive. Though it seems unlikely that anything incendiary will happen in Dallas where — thanks to the luck of the draw — the two resident teams are Bulgaria and South Korea.

Small wonder that Dallas is the only city where there are no sold-out games. Unfortunately it is also the city where the International Broadcasting Center is housed, and the city that FIFA chose as their HQ for the first half of the tournament.

Nationwide interest unquestionably would be stimulated by a winning run from the US team. If the US don't make it past the first round, there'll be plenty of Americans, as well as foreigners, who will take that as proof that the Yanks will never be any good at this game. Non-soccer Americans look at the groups and wonder why the mighty US should have any trouble with Romania and Colombia and, who's this . . . Switzerland? Are you kidding, you can get 16 Switzerlands into the state of Texas, how can we not beat a little country like that?



In the cold . . . US defender Desmond Armstrong.

But it won't be easy. The US team have yet to take shape, the overseas players who must form the basis have less than a month to settle down. Performances have been so erratic as to make any judgment meaningless. Even with all the foreign- based players in the team, there is still no compelling reason to think that the US can beat any of the teams in their group.

There remain the mystery elements such as the home-team advantage, and the wizardry that World Cup coach Bora Milutinovic is expected to work. He already has caused a major surprise by dropping defender Desmond Armstrong, while retaining players like Alexi Lalas and Mike Lapper who are technically far inferior.

Milutinovic changes the US's line-up from game to game, even when there is no apparent need. He is alleged to have said that nobody will know the true team until they go out for the first game against Switzerland. After all, his Costa Rica line-up which beat Scotland in 1990 had never played together before.

And if the US fail to qualify for the second round — will that deliver a crushing blow to the attempts to launch a pro league?

More League Setbacks

NOBODY ever said launching yet another new pro soccer league in the US was going to be easy. Complicated and confusing it certainly is.

We have a name — Major League Soccer, MLS — we have a logo and a television deal. We have seven full-time staff, including a director of player development (David Dir, formerly coach of Colorado Foxes). And we have a start-up date of spring 1995.

But where are the teams, the players and the coaches? Come to that, where is the money to finance the whole operation? For the moment, MLS are living on a loan of $5 million made by the World Cup '94 people, money which comes from the massive profit that the tournament is expected to make. If MLS succeed, the loan is to be repaid. If MLS go down the tubes, goodbye to however much of the $5 million they've spent.

But for long-term stability, MLS must have big investors. Originally, Alan Rothenberg (who, as if running the World Cup and the United States Soccer Federation is not enough, is also in charge of MLS) said that the league needed $100 million in capital. More recently, he has said they can get by on $50 million.

The idea was to offer units of $10 million each to major investors through the Stock Exchange. MLS never claimed to have sold any of those units. In fact, the units (on advice from Wall Street experts) have been reduced to $5 million each. And still there has been no word of buyers.

Without the commitment of big business — presumably, that means 10 corporate investors at $5 million each — MLS will not get off the ground. The voices now circulating say that there is interest, but that there will be no commitment until after US '94.

In the meantime, MLS — working on borrowed money and borrowed time — are putting their structure in place. Cities have been invited to send in bids if they want one of the 12 teams that will make up the league. The bids have to be serious, of course. One way of measuring that has been to ask local fans to put down deposits on season tickets. Originally, the MLS people were saying that a successful bid would need 10,000 such deposits. But like other MLS target figures, the 10,000 has dwindled. It is now down to a more realistic 3,000 to 4,000.

Anyway, some obviously crucial cities, such as New York, surely will be admitted however poor their response might be. Can anyone imagine 10,000 New Yorkers putting down money to support a fictitious team in a league that doesn't exist yet?

Over 30 cities applied. When the May 15 deadline arrived, 22 were still in the running, though the drop-outs included Chicago, Orlando, Miami, and Philadelphia. Ten more will be eliminated, and the dozen cities to make up the league will be announced on June 15, two days before US '94 starts.

Which still leaves a long way to go: management, staff, coaches, players and — perhaps the most intractable of all the problems — stadiums, to come up with before teams can take the field.

WORLD CUP USA 94

GROUP A

US • SWITZERLAND • COLOMBIA • ROMANIA

JUNE 18 (16.30) — DETROIT
UNITED STATES ___ v **SWITZERLAND** ___
JUNE 18 (00.30) — LOS ANGELES
COLOMBIA ___ v **ROMANIA** ___
JUNE 22 (21.00) — DETROIT
ROMANIA ___ v **SWITZERLAND** ___
JUNE 22 (00.30) — LOS ANGELES
UNITED STATES ___ v **COLOMBIA** ___
JUNE (21.00) — LOS ANGELES
UNITED STATES ___ v **ROMANIA** ___
JUNE (21.00) — SAN FRANCISCO
SWITZERLAND ___ v **COLOMBIA** ___

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
A3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

GROUP B

BRAZIL • RUSSIA • CAMEROON • SWEDEN

JUNE 19 (00.30) — LOS ANGELES
CAMEROON ___ v **SWEDEN** ___
JUNE 20 (21.00) — SAN FRANCISCO
BRAZIL ___ v **RUSSIA** ___
JUNE 24 (21.00) — SAN FRANCISCO
BRAZIL ___ v **CAMEROON** ___
JUNE 24 (00.30) — DETROIT
SWEDEN ___ v **RUSSIA** ___
JUNE 28 (21.00) — SAN FRANCISCO
RUSSIA ___ v **CAMEROON** ___
JUNE 28 (21.00) — DETROIT
BRAZIL ___ v **SWEDEN** ___

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

GROUP C

GERMANY • BOLIVIA • SPAIN • SOUTH KOREA

JUNE 17 (20.00) — CHICAGO
GERMANY ___ v **BOLIVIA** ___
JUNE 17 (00.30) — DALLAS
SPAIN ___ v **SOUTH KOREA** ___
JUNE 21 (21.00) — CHICAGO
GERMANY ___ v **SPAIN** ___
JUNE 23 (00.30) — BOSTON
SOUTH KOREA ___ v **BOLIVIA** ___
JUNE 27 (21.00) — CHICAGO
BOLIVIA ___ v **SPAIN** ___
JUNE 27 (21.00) — DALLAS
GERMANY ___ v **SOUTH KOREA** ___

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
C2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
C3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

GROUP D

ARGENTINA • GREECE • NIGE

JUNE 21 (17.30) — BOSTON
ARGENTINA ___ v **G**
JUNE 21 (00.30) — DALLAS
NIGERIA ___ v **B**
JUNE 25 (21.00) — BOSTON
ARGENTINA ___ v **N**
JUNE 26 (17.30) — CHICAGO
BULGARIA ___ v **G**
JUNE 30 (00.30) — BOSTON
GREECE ___ v **N**
JUNE 30 (00.30) — DALLAS
ARGENTINA ___ v **B**

GROUP D	P	W
D1	...	...
D2	...	...
D3	...	...
4	...	...

GROUP E

ITALY • REP. OF IRELAND •

JUNE 18 (21.00) — NEW YORK
ITALY ___ v
JUNE 19 (21.00) — WASHINGTON
NORWAY ___ v
JUNE 23 (21.00) — NEW YORK
ITALY ___ v
JUNE 24 (17.30) — ORLANDO
MEXICO ___ v
JUNE 28 (17.30) — NEW YORK
REP. IRELAND ___ v
JUNE 28 (17.30) — WASHINGTON
ITALY ___ v

GROUP E	P	W
E1	...	...
E2	...	...
E3	...	...
4	...	...

GROUP F

BELGIUM • MOROCCO • HO

JUNE 19 (17.30) — ORLANDO
BELGIUM ___ v
JUNE 20 (00.30) — WASHINGTON
HOLLAND ___ v
JUNE 25 (17.30) — ORLANDO
BELGIUM ___ v
JUNE 25 (17.30) — NEW YORK
SAUDI ARABIA ___ v
JUNE 29 (17.30) — ORLANDO
MOROCCO ___ v
JUNE 29 (17.30) — WASHINGTON
BELGIUM ___ v

GROUP F	P	W
F1	...	...
F2	...	...
F3	...	...
4	...	...

BULGARIA
ECE ___
GARIA ___
RIA ___
ECE ___
RIA ___
GARIA ___

L	F	A	Pts
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

RWAY ● MEXICO
. IRELAND ___
ICO ___
WAY ___
. IRELAND ___
WAY ___
ICO ___

L	F	A	Pts
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...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

D ● S. ARABIA
ROCCO ___
DI ARABIA ___
LAND ___
ROCCO ___
LAND ___
DI ARABIA ___

L	F	A	Pts
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

SECOND ROUND

#1 JULY 2 (19.00) – CHICAGO

1C ..... ___ v 3A/B/F ..... ___

#2 JULY 2 (21.30) –WASHINGTON

2C ..... ___ v 2A ..... ___

#3 JULY 3 (18.00) – DALLAS

2F ..... ___ v 2B ..... ___

#4 JULY 3 (21.30) – LOS ANGELES

1A ..... ___ v 3C/D/E ..... ___

#5 JULY 4 (17.00) – ORLANDO

1F ..... ___ v 2E ..... ___

#6 JULY 4 (20.30) – SAN FRANCISCO

1B ..... ___ v 3A/C/D ..... ___

#7 JULY 5 (18.00) – BOSTON

1D ..... ___ v 3B/E/F ..... ___

#8 JULY 5 (21.30) – NEW YORK

1E ..... ___ v 2D ..... ___

QUARTER-FINALS

#A JULY 9 (17.00) — BOSTON

Winner #7 ..... ___ v Winner #2 ..... ___

#B JULY 9 (20.30) — DALLAS

Winner #5 ..... ___ v Winner #6 ..... ___

#C JULY 10 (17.00) — NEW YORK

Winner #8 ..... ___ v Winner #1 ..... ___

#D JULY 10 (20.30) — SAN FRANCISCO

Winner #4 ..... ___ v Winner #3 ..... ___

SEMI-FINALS

JULY 13 (00.30) — LOS ANGELES

Winner #D ..... ___ v Winner #B ..... ___

JULY 13 (21.00) — NEW YORK

Winner #C ..... ___ v Winner #A ..... ___

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

JULY 16 (20.30) — LOS ANGELES

..... ___ v ..... ___

FINAL

JULY 17 (20.30) — LOS ANGELES

..... ___ v ..... ___

WORLD SOCCER

Brazil look the best for a four-timer

BRAZIL, seeking a record fourth World Cup Final victory, are 4-1 favourites in *WORLD SOCCER'S* exclusive poll as the tournament nears kick-off time.

The 1958 competition in Sweden is the only one of the 14 to date won by a country playing outside their own continent. Brazil, the winners then, aim to do it again in North America.

Germany's recent surprise defeat at home to the Republic of Ireland had an effect on their price for victory in the Final. They have now moved out to 11-2, along with Italy.

Holland and Argentina are next in the list at 7-1 each, but Colombia will not go short of backers at a tasty-looking 114-1.

Spain's magnificent record in European club tournaments is hardly ever reflected at national level, and Barcelona's recent defeat in the Champions Cup Final may well have had an effect, with so many of their players in the national squad.

Even so, they may be worth a modest flutter at 20-1. The same price goes for Belgium, who have a good record in recent tournaments.

The Republic of Ireland will have a sentimental following in the English-speaking world, and that victory over the Germans in Hanover had a shortening effect on their odds. If you can get 33-1, take it, with a saver on a place in the quarter-finals.

LATEST PRICES

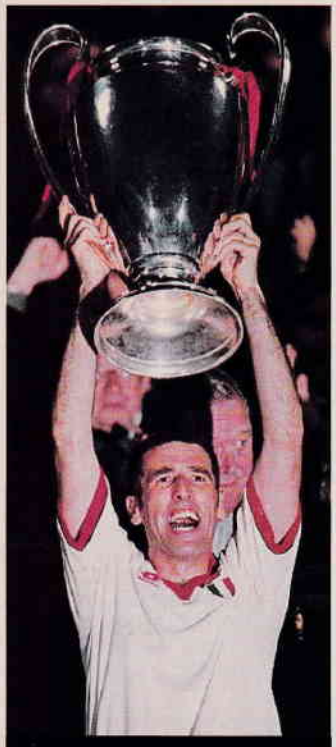
4-1	Brazil
11-2	Italy, Germany
7-1	Argentina, Holland
14-1	Colombia
20-1	Belgium, Spain
33-1	Republic of Ireland, Sweden
40-1	Mexico, Norway, Russia, Switzerland
50-1	Bulgaria, Nigeria, Romania
66-1	Cameroon
80-1	Bolivia, Greece
100-1	Morocco, South Korea
200-1	United States
500-1	Saudi Arabia

● **THE favourites to top each of the six groups are all odds-on, with Colombia 8-11, Brazil 1-2, Germany 4-9, Argentina 1-2, Italy 4-9, Holland 2-5.**

As such, they are hardly worth a bet unless you have plenty to put down. Some bookmakers will lay odds NOT to win a group, and I feel that Colombia, at evens or slightly better, might be worth a little something.

DAVID PROLE

CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL — FROM **KEIR RADNEDGE** IN ATHENS



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Out of this

Capello's stars simply on a different planet

MILAN regained the Champions Cup — ultimate club prize in Europe — with a sensational 4-0 victory over mighty Barcelona in the Olympic stadium in Athens. Yet if Milan's coach, Fabio Capello, had had his way, the inspiration of that triumph, Dejan Savicevic, would have been sold off long ago.

Capello had always considered Savicevic an unnecessary luxury who, whatever his undoubted talent, lacked the temperament either to sit patiently in the stand while other foreigners played or to slot comfortably into team patterns on the odd occasions when injuries to others demanded his presence on the pitch. The exiled Serb was saved only — and repeatedly — by the presence in the boardroom of a one-man fan club in president Silvio Berlusconi.

Now Berlusconi, a media magnate turned millionaire businessman turned football club president turned Prime Minister, possesses a rare Midas touch. On this occasion it produced a gold-medal-winning performance from his favourite footballer. Savicevic scored one goal and was involved in the creation of the other three — scored by Daniele Massaro (two) and Frenchman Marcel Desailly — within a team display of the greatest class.

Five years ago, ironically in Barcelona, Milan won the Champions Cup by defeating Steaua Bucharest of Romania by the same 4-0 margin. But Steaua, that night in Nou Camp, offered barely token resistance. This was different. Barcelona came out prepared to play their best. It wasn't that they played badly. Quite simply, Milan were on a different planet.

Logic, before kick-off, suggested that the night's best football would come from Barcelona. They had the advantage in attack because Milan's defensive core, sweeper Franco Baresi and stopper Alessandro Costacurta, had been banished by suspension. But one factor was overlooked in such speculation: to

Joy all the way . . . as Massaro scores the first goal, Desailly celebrates the fourth, and the whole gang get in on the act.

● ENGLISH referee Philip Don took over match control at short notice from John Blankenstein after UEFA had received death threats to the Dutch official. Don's team included his World Cup linesman Roy Pearson, No 2 linesman Robert Harris and reserve official Martin Bodenham.

Dutch officials criticised UEFA's short-notice replacement of Blankenstein. Surely the mistake was appointing him in the first place when everyone knows (don't they?) about the nationality of Barcelona's coach. Giving luckless Blankenstein the game was asking for trouble.

● MILAN fans outnumbered Barcelona supporters in the stadium by more than three to one — an estimated 30,000-plus from Italy compared with 10,000 from Spain.

world

score their goals Barcelona first had to approach the heart of Milan's defence and this they signally failed to do.

Smartly and sweetly as they played the ball around within their own half — Nadal, Koeman, Guardiola, Ferrer then all the way back again and out to the nimble Sergi — Barcelona rarely sliced open the heart of Milan's tight midfield.

As Hans Van Breukelen, former goalkeeper of Holland and PSV Eindhoven, once told me: "Milan play so close together, literally, out on the pitch. That takes a lot of hard work that maybe you don't see from the stands. If they have a secret, that's it."

In theory the initiative was there for Barcelona to seize. But Milan had other ideas. Coach Capello reasoned that to sit back was to invite disaster. And why should they, when they had in Savicevic and Zvonimir Boban two of the most zestful attackers in world football? Certainly, Barcelona had nobody to match them. Not even Brazil's Romario. Not even Bulgaria's Stoichkov — both prospective World Cup superstars.

When Barcelona were in possession they looked languid, brooding, impressive; when Milan had the ball they looked . . . ever dangerous.

After nine minutes a Milan warning: Christian Panucci had a headed goal disallowed for offside. Then Massaro, quick on the turn, fired into Barsa goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta's arms.

In the 22nd minute, as they had threatened, they took the lead through Massaro. Savicevic was the creator.

Barcelona, thus far, had had two opportunities. First a beautiful half-pitch move carved out between Guardiola and Stoichkov ended with Romario uncharacteristically fumbling the finish. Then Paolo Maldini produced on Amor a saving tackle of which his father Cesare, Milan's Cup-winning skipper in 1963 and himself an elegant sweeper, would have been proud.

Milan's goal upset Barcelona's rythm. The triangles flattened out. Ronald Koeman started thumping long hopeful passes through the middle but you don't beat Milan this way. It was almost an insult. Not until the 34th minute did Barsa produce anything like a real opening and then Beguiristain had his shot saved low by the diving Sebastiano Rossi.

The first half was almost three minutes into injury time when Milan struck again.

Once more Savicevic inflicted the initial damage on the right, stretched Barcelona's defence to breaking point and Roberto Donadoni skipped around the back of the Spanish defence on the left before providing a perfect short cross which Massaro volleyed beyond Zubizarreta.

Two-nil to Milan at half-time and the tactical shape of the game was plain.

Josep Guardiola and Jose Maria Bakero could make no direct progress through midfield because Enrico Albertini and the immense Marcel Desailly were immovable on the other side of the halfway line.

Further forward Romario was a prisoner of the remarkable Filippo Galli, recalled for a rare outing because of Costacurta's suspension; and Panucci, on the left of Milan's defence, had Stoichkov so completely under control he could take time out to support the scheming Donadoni — playing one of his best games for a long time — in midfield.

One byproduct of Milan's changes in defence had actually closed down another attacking avenue for Barcelona.

Milan, with Baresi (and Costacurta) running the show, delight in playing the offside game. But Maldini and Galli had neither the confidence nor the joint security to copy.

Instead, they sat deeper in defence than is usual with Milan, thus denying Romario and Stoichkov the opportunity to use their own devastating pace on the counter-attack.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff made one defensive adjustment at the interval, moving Ferrer from free and wide on the right of defence into the centre to close down Massaro.

But that proved mere window-dressing two minutes into the second half when Savicevic won a tussle with Nadal and produced the most exquisite angled lob beyond Zubizarreta for the third goal.

Barcelona have come back from three goals down to win in two-leg ties. But to do so in little more than 40 minutes was asking too much particularly now that Desailly — a winner against Milan with Marseille last year — was winning every tackle in sight.

Appropriately, Desailly struck Milan's fourth goal to ensure his name would rank among those honoured few who have won the Champions Cup with two clubs — Miodrag Belodedici (Steaua Bucharest and Red Star Belgrade), Koeman (PSV Eindhoven and Barcelona) and now also Savicevic (Red Star and Milan).

Capello, like some flamboyant maestro of the baton, conducted his orchestra from a yard or two behind the touchline — arms gesturing wildly to maintain the momentum of his first violins in attack while simultaneously drawing out his virtuoso solo trumpets in midfield and defence.

Cruyff, by contrast, sat back on the Barcelona bench, impassive, resigned. It was almost as if he had recognised, from the first exchanges of the evening, that Milan were in an unstoppable mood and there was nothing he could do about it but wait to be run over.

It was not that Barcelona were bad, rather that Milan were magnificent. Such quality, produced so consistently throughout every miute of a match on such an occasion. Barcelona are good, very good; second best in Europe. But Milan were simply far, far better.

What a year for president Berlusconi. First winning the Italian General Election, now the European Cup. Given the Italian passion for football, I wonder which means the more?

WHO, WHERE, WHEN AND HOW

0 — Milan kick off.

9 — **Panucci** has a headed "goal" disallowed for offside.

10 — **Romario** wastes a split-second opening after a **Guardiola-Stoichkov** break.

13 — **Panucci** goes round the Barcelona defence and **Massaro**, on the turn, shoots into **Zubizarreta's** arms.

19 — **Donadoni's** left-wing corner is headed wide by **Desailly**.

22 — **Savicevic** escapes on the right, rounds **Nadal** and chips to the far post for **MASSARO**. 1-0 to Milan.

29 — **Koeman** hits a long pass up the right but **Rossi** just beats the onrushing **Stoichkov** at the expense of a bump on the head.

32 — **Donadoni** has a shot saved by **Zubizarreta** after an **Albertini** free kick ricochets around the penalty box.

34 — **Rossi** dives to make his first real save, from **Beguiristain.**

40 — **Bakero** jinks through for the first time in midfield, **Stoichkov** flicks the ball on but **Romario's** shot is deflected wide for a corner.

45 — Two minutes into injury time **Savicevic** and **Boban** lure Barcelona's defenders to the right then switch play to the left, where **Panucci** sends in **Donadoni** to run to the byline, and cut the ball back for **MASSARO** to volley his second. 2-0 to Milan.

Half-time: Milan 2 Barcelona 0.

47 — The decisive goal. **SAVICEVIC** tussles with **Nadal** on the right, pulls him back, strides forward and sidefoots an angled lob over **Zubizarreta**. 3-0 to Milan.

58 — **Savicevic** hits the post with a close-range flick, Barcelona fail to clear their lines and **Albertini** puts **DESAILLY** in to score. 4-0 to Milan.

84 — **Donadoni** opens up Barcelona once more and **Savicevic** again hits a post.

Full-time: Milan 4 Barcelona 0.

WHAT THEY SAID

FABIO CAPELLO *(Milan coach):* "My team played an extraordinary match which demonstrated an enormous will to win among the entire squad. We knew Barcelona's strengths and went out to play on their weaknesses. Our tactics and approach were dictated to some extent by the players we had available but I couldn't have asked any more in the circumstances. Clearly, Cruyff sent out his team to create as many problems for us as possible, we tried to do the same for them and I think we proved the better team."

DANIELE MASSARO *(Milan):* "The Mister prepared us perfectly for this match. Everything worked out just the way he had told us. Of course I was delighted with my goals after what happened to me last year against Marseille. The difference? Sometimes you think you have done everything right and the ball won't go in, then another time it does. Football is like that."

JOHAN CRUYFF *(Barcelona coach):* "Milan deserved to win. They moved the ball around better than we did, won all the important tackles, stretched us at the back and got their players in behind our defence."

ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA *(Barcelona captain):* "Milan played to 100 per cent of their potential — perfect."

1994 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL

May 18 = Olympic Stadium (Athens)

MILAN 4 v **BARCELONA 0**

Massaro 22, 45, Savicevic 47, Desailly 58

Rossi	1	Zubizarreta
Tassotti	2	Ferrer
Galli	3	Koeman
Maldini	4	Nadal
Panucci	5	Beguiristain
Boban	6	Bakero
Albertini	7	Guardiola
Desailly	8	Amor
Donadoni	9	Sergi
Savicevic	10	Stoichkov
Massaro	11	Romario
Fabio Capello	*Coach*	Johan Cruyff

HT: 2-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Don (Eng)

Substitutions: Nava for Maldini (85 mins), Eusebio for Beguiristain (51 mins), Quique for Sergi (72 mins)

Man of the match: Dejan Savicevic (Milan)

Tangerine dream . . . Craig Brewster scores against Rangers, and the Scottish Cup is on its way to Dundee United . . . at last.

Rangers set for a shake-up

TIMES are changing at the top in Scotland. Rangers duly took their sixth successive championship, but did not win one of their last five games, and were then beaten by Dundee United in one of the biggest Cup Final shocks in history.

Although the game was decided only by a dreadful slip by goalkeeper Ally Maxwell, presenting Craig Brewster with a goal nobody could have expected, United were well worth a win after losing all their six previous finals.

Manager Walter Smith, facing his first major domestic crisis since succeeding Graeme Souness, reacted by announcing that the time had come for some changes. Several of the squad are likely to be missing by the time 1994-95 starts.

This was the last 44-game programme before reconstruction changes the appearance of Scottish football via the four-division set-up.

Smith highlighted his team's impressive unbeaten run between January and April, which had the effect of isolating the chasing pack, but he will not be content to dwell on past achievements.

His reported interest in Leeds captain Gary McAllister and Liverpool defender Neil Ruddock came to nothing, but the stature of the players involved, plus their market valuations, provided sufficient evidence of the extent of Smith's ambition. As for stadium resources, chairman David Murray has pointed out that Rangers have spent more on redevelopment than all the other clubs put together. By August, the standing enclosure to the front of the main stand will be all-seated, the final piece in the Taylor Report jigsaw.

By contrast, various other teams are striving desperately to beat the Taylor deadline, with overworked bulldozers currently laying waste the old concrete terraces which have been a traditional feature of the country's grounds.

Celtic, in particular, appear unprepared for the new legislation and are reported to have approached Queens Park for permission to use the national stadium, Hampden Park, for home games while Parkhead is out of action.

A quiet summer appears in prospect with no World Cup to look forward to — a completely new experience for a whole generation of Scottish fans who, since 1974, have become accustomed to the country's participation in the sport's premier event.

Two Highland clubs, Caledonian Thistle and Ross County, have been admitted to the Scottish League for the first time, so the anticipation of competing at senior level next season should be sufficient to sustain a significant degree of interest within the Inverness and Dingwall communities.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Linfield land glorious treble

THE 103-year history of the Irish League had never contained a more dramatic finish, with the three-club race decided in the closing minutes of the final fixtures.

Eventually Linfield retained the championship, to complete a remarkable 13-day spell of five matches which brought them all three titles.

Glenavon, Portadown and Linfield all had 67 points from 29 games at the start of the final day of League fixtures with the first two clubs in opposition and Linfield at home to close rivals Glentoran.

At half-time Glenavon seemed set for the title after 34 years, for they led 2-0 while Linfield were only level. Then Portadown fought back to equalise with a goal six minutes from time, while Dubliners Dessie Gorman and Pat Fenlon scored to give Linfield victory.

So Linfield kept their title, Portadown were second, and poor Glenavon, who had been only a few moments away from being champions, finished third.

A week earlier Portadown had lost 2-0 to Linfield — their first home defeat for more than two years — and a 1-1 draw at Newry in midweek enabled the eventual champions to start the last day level.

The final hectic spell for Trevor Anderson, who was chosen Manager of the Year, and his men had begun with the League Cup Final, in which Coleraine were beaten 2-0.

Then a repeat of that score, against Bangor, gave Linfield their first Irish Cup victory in 12 years, their 14th double, and the treble.

Theirs was a remarkable performance spread over 61 matches, the last 32 of them without defeat. Sadly they cannot compete in the European Cup next season, because poor Irish results in recent years have led to downgrading into the UEFA Cup. Linfield and Portadown go into that competition and beaten finalists Bangor go into the Cup-winners Cup.

ROY KITSON

Third time lucky for Little's Leicester

MANCHESTER UNITED had barely finished celebrating their League and FA Cup double — thanks to a 4-0 win over Chelsea in the FA Cup Final — when attention turned to the Football League, and the play-offs.

Preston North End, one of the League's oldest clubs, and Wycombe Wanderers, the newest, were first up, in the Third Division Final on the Saturday. Martin O'Neill, the former Northern Ireland international, turned down the chance to take over at Nottingham Forest, one of his former clubs, last summer and the decision looks like the right one. A 4-2 win for Wycombe meant promotion for the second season running, from the GM Vauxhall Conference to the Second Division of the Football League. And, with average gates of 6,000 and a new stadium, there is no telling how far O'Neill's side can rise.

Burnley and Stockport were the next Wembley hopefuls, on the Saturday, but a 2-1 win for Burnley condemned Stockport to their third successive Play-off Final defeat, and they had two men sent off to complete a miserable afternoon. A similar fate lay in store for Leicester, beaten in the last two First Division Play-off Finals, both by virtue of a penalty. Their opponents this time round were Derby County, and Leicester manager Brian Little decided to capitalise on Derby's lack of height by playing three strikers with an average height of 6' 3"! The plan worked a treat as Steve Walsh, out through injury since February, scored twice to seal a 2-1 win, and condemn the big-spending Rams to another season in Division One.

On the international front, England's revival under Terry Venables continues. World Cup-bound Greece offered little resistance in a 5-0 demolition, but Norway provided a stiffer test three days later. A 0-0 draw was, perhaps, a little flattering to the Norwegians, but a useful learning exercise for Venables and his team all the same. Early days, but there is an up-beat mood about the England camp at present, something which has been missing for far too long.

JOHN KELLY

Bangor best in doubtful finish

BANGOR CITY took the championship from Inter Cardiff in the last game of the season and in a controversial way.

A 2-0 win at Porthmadog was more than Bangor needed, because a 9-0 hammering of Haverfordwest County the previous Saturday meant they needed only a point to become champions.

County, however, fielded a very weak side and allowed Bangor to cancel out Inter's goal-difference advantage. Inter's protests were of no avail, but the win at

RESULTS

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

MIDWEEK

ARSENAL 1 (Bould 51)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Earle 37). **Att:** 21,292.

WEEKEND

MAN UNITED 2 (Cantona 40, 45)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 44,333.

BLACKBURN 1 (Shearer 45)
QPR 1 (Ready 84). **Att:** 19,913.

NEWCASTLE 3 (Fox 19, Beardsley 56, Lee 63)
OLDHAM 2 (Jobson 43, Sharp 57). **Att:** 32,216.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Houghton 57)
ARSENAL 2 (Wright 32, 89). **Att:** 31,580.

CHELSEA 1 (Spencer 62)
LEEDS 1 (Speed 36). **Att:** 18,544.

SHEFFIELD WED 5 (Linighan 6 og, Watson 16, Pearce 56, Bart-Williams 69, Bright 90)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 23,457.

WEST HAM 1 (Allen 1)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 14, Rush 87). **Att:** 26,096.

SWINDON 2 (Summerbee 67, Barton 80 og)
WIMBLEDON 4 (Fashanu 13, Earle 71, 75, Holdsworth 81). **Att:** 12,237.

NORWICH 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Blake 31). **Att:** 18,474.

EVERTON 0
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 23,217.

TOTTENHAM 3 (Sedgley 5, Samways 67, Anderton 89)
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 25,959.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

MIDWEEK

WIMBLEDON 3 (Holdsworth 32, 47, 5)
OLDHAM 0. **Att:** 6,766.

LEEDS 0
MAN UNITED 2 (Kanchelskis 47, Giggs 85). **Att:** 41,125.

WEST HAM 1 (Allen 64)
BLACKBURN 2 (Berg 11, Pearce 75). **Att:** 22,186.

NEWCASTLE 5 (Bracewell 15, Beardsley 23 pen, 66, Cole 41, Sellars 79)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Beinlich 10). **Att:** 32,216.

QPR 1 (Penrice 3)
ARSENAL 1 (Merson 46). **Att:** 11,442.

CHELSEA 2 (Wise 25 pen, Peacock 39)
SWINDON 0. **Att:** 11,180.

WEEKEND

SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Blake 63, 90)
NEWCASTLE 0. **Att:** 29,013.

ARSENAL 0
WEST HAM 2 (Morley 77, Allen 88). **Att:** 33,701.

LEEDS 3 (McAllister 72, Watson 81 og, White 90)
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 35,487.

LIVERPOOL 0
NORWICH 1 (Goss 35). **Att:** 44,339.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Holdsworth 58, Clarke 63)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 72 pen). **Att:**20,875

OLDHAM 0
SHEFFIELD WED 0. **Att:** 9,875.

SOUTHAMPTON 4 (Le Tissier 19, 77, Monkou 39, Maddison 88)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Saunders 58). **Att:** 19,003.

MAN CITY 2 (Rosler 22, Walsh 37)
CHELSEA 2 (Fleck 15, Cascarino 19). **Att:** 33,594.

QPR 1 (Ferdinand 71)
SWINDON 3 (Taylor 63, Fjortoft 76, Summerbee 90). **Att:** 9,875.

IPSWICH 1 (Kiwomya 20)
MAN UNITED 2 (Cantona 36, Giggs 47). **Att:** 22,559.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

COVENTRY 1 (Le Saux 29)
BLACKBURN 2 (Darby 11, 55). **Att:** 16,653.

LEEDS 2 (White 71, Wallace 73)
SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Bart-Williams 20, Watson 50). **Att:** 33,806.

OLDHAM 1 (Beckford 24)
SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Cork 9). **Att:** 14,779.

QPR 0
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 10,850.

MAN UNITED 2 (Kanchelskis 60, Hughes 89)
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 44,705.

CHELSEA 1 (Cascarino 43)
COVENTRY 2 (Ndlovu 32, Morgan 34). **Att:** 8,923.

OLDHAM 0
TOTTENHAM 2 (Samways 37, Howells 78). **Att:** 14,283.

WEEKEND

NEWCASTLE 2 (Cole 46, Beardsley 66 pen)
ARSENAL 0. **Att:** 32,216.

SWINDON 0
LEEDS 5 (Deane 18, 67, White 28, Wallace 58, Fairclough 90). **Att:** 15,539.

EVERTON 3 (Stuart 24 pen, 83, Horne 68)
WIMBLEDON 2 (Holdsworth 4 pen, Ablett 20 og). **Att:** 31,297.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Watson 25)
MAN CITY 1 (Rosler 48). **Att:** 33,773.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Yorke 65, 81)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 17). **Att:** 45,347.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Sheringham 39)
QPR 2 (Sinclair 36, 77). **Att:** 26,105.

NORWICH 1 (Ullathorne 70)
OLDHAM 1 (McCarthy 14). **Att:** 20,394.

WEST HAM 3 (Williamson 11, M. Allen 62, Monkou 90 og)
SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Le Tissier 45, 65 pen, Maddison 52). **Att:** 26,952.

CHELSEA 3 (Kjeldbjerg 58, Stein 76, 90)
SHEFFIELD UTD 2 (Flo 29, Hodges 60). **Att:** 21,782.

MAN UNITED 0
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

WEEKEND

FA CUP — FINAL

CHELSEA 0
MAN UNITED 4 (Cantona 60 pen, 66 pen, Hughes 69 McClair 90). **Att:** 79,634.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....Andy **COLE** (Newcastle Utd) 34
2 .....Alan **SHEARER** (Blackburn Rovers)....31
3 .....Chris **SUTTON** (Norwich City).....25
Matt **LE TISSIER** (Southampton).....25
5 .....Ian **WRIGHT** (Arsenal) 23

SCOTLAND

PREMIER DIVISION — *Final*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	44	22	14	8	74	41	58
Aberdeen	44	17	21	6	58	36	55
Motherwell	44	20	14	10	58	43	54
Celtic	44	15	20	9	51	38	50
Hibernian	44	16	15	13	53	48	47
Dundee Utd	44	11	20	13	47	48	42
Hearts	44	11	20	13	37	43	42
Kilmarnock	44	12	16	16	36	45	40
Partick Thistle	44	12	16	16	46	57	40
St Johnstone	44	10	20	14	35	47	40
Raith Rovers	44	6	19	19	46	80	31
Dundee	44	8	13	23	42	57	29

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

MIDWEEK

PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Craig 87)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 7,299.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Jess 85, Grant 89)
PARTICK 0. **Att:** 7,827.

HIBERNIAN 0
MOTHERWELL 2 (Coyne 17 pen, Krivocapic 73). **Att:** 6,135.

KILMARNOCK 0
RAITH ROVERS 0. **Att:** 7,426.

DUNDEE 0
CELTIC 2 (McGinlay 30, 71). **Att:** 5,982.

ST JOHNSTONE 0
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 6,760.

RANGERS 2 (Durie 64, 78)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Dailly 47). **Att:** 44,780.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Hannah 66)
KILMARNOCK 3 (Williamson 11, 88, McSkimming 54). **Att:** 10,754.

MOTHERWELL 2 (Philliben 19, Coyne 44 pen)
RANGERS 1 (McCoist 27). **Att:** 14,050.

PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Craig 69)
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 3,604.

RAITH ROVERS 1 (Cameron 72)
HIBERNIAN 1 (Wright 32). **Att:** 3,040.

CELTIC 1 (Donnelly 23)
ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Dodds 46). **Att:** 10,602.

HEARTS 1 (Robertson 60 pen)
ABERDEEN 1 (Irvine 34). **Att:** 13,811.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

HIBERNIAN 1 (Wright 34)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 14,515.

MOTHERWELL 1 (Kirk 15)
DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 4, McLaren 64). **Att:** 5,208.

RAITH ROVERS 0
ABERDEEN 2 (Roddie 26, Shearer 82). **Att:** 2,798.

WEEKEND

KILMARNOCK 1 (Black 80)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 18,012.

DUNDEE 4 (McKeown 17, Shaw 64, Pittman 73, Anderson 85 pen)
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 3,012.

CELTIC 1 (McGinlay 49)
PARTICK 1 (Smith 86). **Att:**16,827.

HEARTS 2 (Frail 30, Levein 53)
DUNDEE UTD 0. **Att:** 13,827.

ST JOHNSTONE 0
ABERDEEN 1 (Irvine 88). **Att:** 6,107.

RAITH ROVERS 3 (Graham 23, Dalziel 26, Hetherston 90)
MOTHERWELL 3 (Lambert 2, Kirk 40, McKinnon 52). **Att:** 3,449.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Hannah 86, Brewster 88)
RAITH ROVERS 3 (Dair 11, 35, Sinclair 44). **Att:** 5,335.

ABERDEEN 1 (Irvine 37)
CELTIC 1 (Donnelly 3). **Att:** 13,678.

HIBERNIAN 0
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 9,975.

PARTICK 0
HEARTS 1 (McLaren 87). **Att:** 10,012.

MOTHERWELL 0
ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Inglis 70). **Att:** 7,498.

RANGERS 0
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 41,620.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 22

WEEKEND

SCOTTISH CUP — FINAL

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Brewster 47)
RANGERS 0. **Att:** 38,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....Mark **HATELEY** (Rangers).....22
2 .....Duncan **SHEARER** (Aberdeen).....17
3 .....Keith **WRIGHT** (Hibernian).....16
Craig **BREWSTER** (Dundee Utd) 16
5 .....Albert **CRAIG** (Partick Thistle).....15
Roddy **GRANT** (Partick Thistle).....15

Porthmadog made the difference irrelevant.

Inter's board have been considering withdrawing from the League, but hopefully rule loopholes will be closed at the annual meeting, to make expulsion the penalty for fielding below-strength teams in such circumstances.

The Konica League Cup escaped Bangor's grasp. Afan Lido retained the trophy with a 1-0 win at Aberystwyth.

Barry Town followed their successful promotion push with a fairytale ending at the National Stadium. Their 2-1 Welsh Cup Final win over professionals Cardiff City was thoroughly deserved, with goals from ex-Swansea players D'Auria and Hough to one by Stant.

This was Barry's second Cup, their other win coming in 1954-55.

The national side's plans for friendlies against Luxembourg and Hungary fell through but a match in Estonia brought a 2-1 win — their first against a Baltic country — and a record 74th cap for Neville Southall.

Club tours and injuries forced more experimentation than first planned, but morale is on the up once more.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

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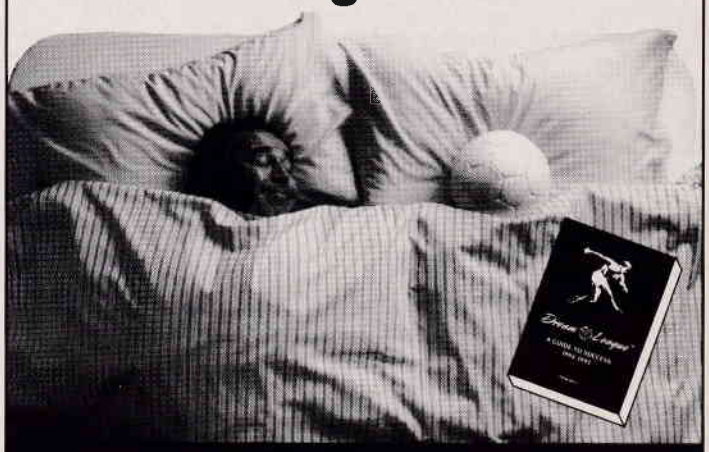

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BY PADDY AGNEW

YOU might think that the average fan would find promotion to Italian Division One, or Serie A, a matter for some celebration. Furthermore, when a side achieves that promotion with a sparkling 5-1 defeat of a promotion rival, you could be forgiven for imagining that the fans would be "over the moon".

However, that is to ignore the reality of Fiorentina.

On the day in early May that Fiorentina clinched an immediate return to Division One, following their relegation last season for the first time in 56 years, the side from Florence turned on a power display to dispose of Ascoli, 5-1.

Yet, they did so to the accompaniement of an almost silent Stadio Communale in Florence.

The Fiorentina fans, not exactly world-renowned for Voltairean enlightenment, chose the occasion to underline their unhappiness both about the fact that Fiorentina had ended up in Division Two at all and, more importantly, about the club's apparently confused plans in the transfer market and the need to strengthen the side for a Serie A campaign.

The Fiorentina fans, not for the first time, may have jumped the gun. Before this summer's World Cup finals have finished, Fiorentina may well have strengthened their squad with one or two of the new stars from US '94.

Although the club's president, film producer Mario Cecchi Gori, died during the winter, the financial future of Fiorentina remains bright with son Vittorio Cecchi Gori vowing to continue the family commitment to the club.

On a day to day basis, too, the demise of Cecchi Gori senior will have provoked little effect, since son Vittorio has been the acting president since the Cecchi Goris took over just two years ago.

And there's the problem. Vittorio Cecchi Gori was the genius who had the bright idea last season to sack coach Gigi Radice in January 93 after a disappointing home loss, but at a time when the club was still fourth in the table.

The rest is a history of team chaos, few points and a scandalous relegation for a side which contained talents such as Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta, German Stefan Effenberg, Dane Brian Laudrup as well as Fabrizio Di Mauro, Francesco Baiano and Massimo Orlando.

Coach Radice had complained that Vittorio Cecchi Gori had been an unacceptably "interventionist" president, trying to impose his views on everything from player purchases to team selection.

Were that phenomenon to repeat itself in the heady heights of Serie A, then current coach Claudio Ranieri (ex-Cagliari and ex-Napoli) could be in for a difficult time.

Batistuta is one of the few certainties in the club's plans for the new season. It was not insignificant that on the day of the infamous 5-1 defeat of Ascoli, the fans broke their silence to give Batistuta a standing ovation when he was substituted.

Everyone knew that Batistuta was playing his last game of the season for Fiorentina and that, with First Divison promotion secured, the club would allow him to leave before the season's end to join Argentina's World Cup squad.

Hence, the fans stood and applauded him off the field and on his way to the World Cup.

Batistuta apart, things are not so

Silence is golden in Florence

Favourite in Florence . . . Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta (right).

UEFA CUP 94

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Hero Walter's case may alter

INTERNAZIONALE saved their season by winning the UEFA Cup for the second time in three years.

But they needed Walter Zenga at his resurrected best to achieve it in what may prove his last game for a club whose president, Ernesto Pellegrini, has threatened to throw almost everyone overboard during the summer's rebuilding operation.

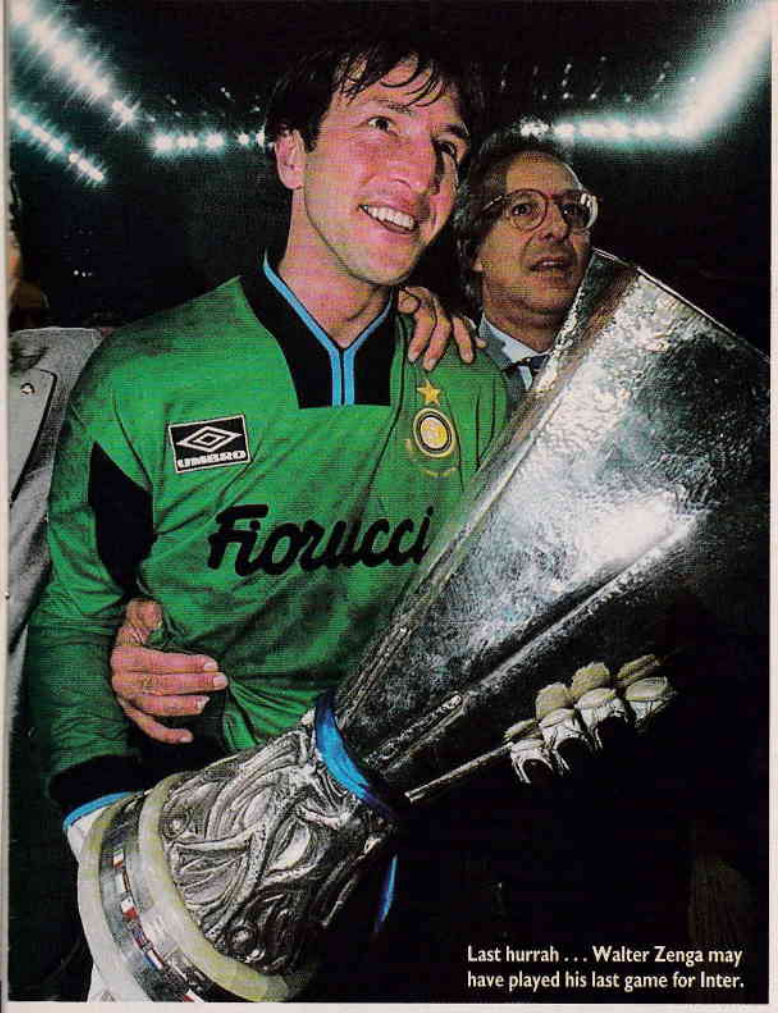
After barely escaping relegation to Serie B for the first time in their history, an Inter defeat by the Austrian outsiders would have been disastrous.

Pellegrini said: "This victory means a lot to us." And it did, his own survival as president was involved, because he had been a target of abuse from fans for much of the previous few weeks.

Inter will thus play in the uEFA Cup again next season as defending champions, which is worth around £10 million in receipts and television fees — money which Pellegrini probably will be spending already this summer on new players to try to mount a realistic domestic challenge to neighbours and champions Milan.

Inter were known to be seeking a new goalkeeper possibly Gianluca Pagliuca of Sampdoria, some young defenders to replace ageing internationals Riccardo Fonseca and Giuseppe Bergomi, and a new forward. Daniel Fonseca who wants to leave Napoli, could be the man to replace fellow Uruguayan Ruben Sosa — though the departures of Sosa and Zenga would not please Inter's fans.

Zenga, now 34, held Salzburg at bay with four crucial saves and on the one occasion he was beaten a shot from



Last hurrah . . . Walter Zenga may have played his last game for Inter.

UEFA CUP FINAL

2nd leg *(Milan — May 11)*

INTERNAZIONALE 1 *(Jonk 62)* **CASINO AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0**

Internazionale won 2-0 on aggregate

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 80,326 *(£2m receipts)* **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco).

Inter: Zenga — A. Paganin, Fontolan (R. Ferri 67), Jonk, Bergomi, Battistini, Orlando, Manicone, Berti, Bergkamp (M. Paganin 89), Sosa.

Salzburg: Konrad — Lainer, Weber, Winklhofer (Amerhauser 67), Fuerstaller, Aigner, Jurcevic, Artner (Steiner 75), Marquinho, Feiersinger, Huetter.

Brazilian Marquinho hit his right-hand post.

Sosa and eight-goal top scorer Bergkamp wasted four chances in the first half before Wim Jonk collected a through pass from Sosa, flicking a delicately-angled shot from close range over goalkeeper Otto Konrad in the 63rd minute for the only goal.

Inter's stand-in coach, Giampiero Marini, who stepped up this spring, paid tribute to Zenga, saying: "He was the best player on the field. Salzburg were the strongest side we've faced in the UEFA Cup. But I believe we deserved to win."

Dutch treat . . . Inter midfielder Wim Jonk celebrates his clinching goal at San Siro.

clear. Di Mauro has been recalled from Lazio, where he had anyway failed to win a first team place.

Brian Laudrup may or may not be recalled from Milan where he, too, had a season spent largely on the sidelines.

Effenberg was generally considered to have been one of the season's disappointments, being regularily accused of showing little enthusiasm for the hurly burly of Division Two, and accordingly his future with the club remains uncertain.

In the meantime, Fiorentina have tried and failed to buy Frenchman Didier Deschamps (Marseille, and on his way to Juventus), Belgian defender Philippe Albert (Anderlecht), Juventus midfielder Dino Baggio and Torino's Giorgio Venturin. At the time of writing, the only certain "new" buys are those of Torino defenders Sandro Cois and Andrea Sottil.

To some extent, Fiorentina are not to blame for the difficulties encountered thus far.

Whenever they show an interest in a player, foreign or domestic, either another Italian club beats them to the player's signature or the price rises too high. Coach Ranieri admits to being worried about the way things have gone in strengthening the side, saying recently: "If I hear another person talk of us being able to win UEFA Cup qualification, then I'm really going to get angry.

"This team need at least four players capable, through their qualities and experience, of uplifting an existing chassis that is in good condition.

"I'm worried about our transfer activity, because so far it has given us little reason to dream. If, when the transfer campaign is over, the club set me a seasonal target that I think is unrealistic, then I'll say so and if people keep on about it, I would leave — even if, for the time being, that's an unlikely possibility"

Despite Ranieri's caution, however, all the Fiorentina news is not bad. Striker Anselmo Robbiati, a 24 year old bought last summer from Monza, 22 year old under-21 international goalkeeper Francesco Toldo and 22 year midfielder Giovanni Tedesco all look like they will make the transition to Serie A with no difficulty.

The big question concerning Fiorentina, however, remains their whimsical president and their volatile fans.

Together they represent a difficult combination of high expectation and short patience which may keep headline writers busy next season. Watch this space, as always.

RESULTS

SERIE A — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	34	19	12	3	36	15	50
Juventus	34	17	13	4	58	25	47
Sampdoria	34	18	8	8	64	39	44
Lazio	34	7	10	7	55	40	44
Parma	34	17	7	10	59	35	41
Napoli	34	12	12	10	41	35	36
AS Roma	34	10	15	9	35	30	35
Torino	34	11	12	11	39	37	34
Foggia	34	10	13	11	46	46	33
Cremonese	34	9	14	11	41	41	32
Genoa	34	8	16	10	32	40	32
Cagliari	34	10	12	12	39	48	32
Internazionale	34	11	9	14	46	45	31
Reggiana	34	10	11	13	29	37	31
Piacenza	34	8	14	12	32	43	30
Udinese	34	7	14	13	35	48	28
Atalanta	34	5	11	18	35	65	21
Lecce	34	3	5	26	28	72	11

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — FINAL, 2ND LEG

SAMPDORIA 6 (Vecchiola 50 og, Lombardo 57, 75, Vierchowod 66, Bertarelli 80 pen, Evani 85 pen)
ANCONA 1 (Lupo 71). **Att:** 40,000.
Sampdoria won 6-1 on agg

WEEKEND

CAGLIARI 0
MILAN 0. **Att:** 23,000.

PIACENZA 0
JUVENTUS 0. At: 21,000.

REGGIANA 1 (Esposito 71)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Amoruso 66). **Att:** 21,000.

LAZIO 3 (Winter 27, Cravero 47, Boksic 77)
LECCE 0. **Att:** 46,000.

NAPOLI 2 (Buso 21, Ferrara 48)
PARMA 0. **Att:** 45,000.

TORINO 1 (Silenzi 77)
FOGGIA 4 (Stroppa 23 pen, 45, P. Bresciani 54, Roy 88). **Att:** 27,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 2 (Fontolan 22, N. Berti 70)
AS ROMA 2 (Giannini 14, Cappoili 80). **Att:** 44,000.

UDINESE 3 (Borgonovo 14, 47, Rossitto 23)
CREMONESE 3 (Pedroni 66, Gualco 80, Tentoni 83). **Att:** 27,000.

GENOA 2 (Skurhavy 32, Ciocci 64)
ATALANTA 1 (Saurini 18). **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

WEEKEND

MILAN 0
REGGIANA 1 (Esposito 71). **Att:** 70,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Vialli 45)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 25,000.

SAMPDORIA 3 (M. Serena 22, Lombardo 54, Bertarelli 67)
LAZIO 4 (Casiraghi 20, Dall'Igna 58 og, Signori 63, 69). **Att:** 28,000.

PARMA 0
PIACENZA 0. **Att:** 28,000.

FOGGIA 0
NAPOLI 1 (Di Canio 61). **Att:** 24,000.

AS ROMA 2 (Balbo 32, Cappioli 64)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 70,000.

CREMONESE 1 (Dezotti 23)
GENOA 1 (Signorini 56). **Att:** 12,000.

LECCE 0
CAGLIARI 1 (Oliveira 40). **Att:** 1,000.

ATALANTA 2 (Orlandini 43, Sergio 83)
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Sosa 45). **Att:** 20,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....Giuseppe **SIGNORI** (Lazio) 23
2 .....Gianfranco **ZOLA** (Parma) 18
3 .....Roberto **BAGGIO** (Juventus) 17
Andrea **SILENZI** (Torino) 17
5 .....Ruben **SOSA** (Inter) 16

Top shot . . . Lazio's Giuseppe Signori.

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Few shocks in the World Cup list

WorldCup USA94

THERE were few surprises in the list of the 22 players who, barring last-minute accidents, will represent Spain at US '94. Javier Clemente has, once again, lost his temper with Johan Cruyff who, apart from using every available opportunity to fire poisoned darts at the national team manager, has upset key players by placing them on the transfer list and adding uncertainty about their futures to the endemic pressures of the World Cup finals.

Cruyff, harshly critical throughout the season about the high number of Barcelona players selected, was nevertheless critical of Clemente's decision to leave out midfielder Guillermo Amor, who had ended the season with a run of fine form and looked a better prospect for the States than some of the nine Barcelona colleagues who will make the trip. By contrast, Deportivo have only one representative — defender Voro — and the only minor surprise is that the Tenerife inside-forward Felipe Minambres has been included.

What a disaster!

BARCELONA fans are still searching for coherent links between Saturday Night Fever and Ash Wednesday. Hard as they try, they cannot come up with valid explanations for the transition from championship euphoria to a European Champions Cup Final performance flatter and colder than yesterday's pancake.

The Saturday evoked memories of the late Miguel Munoz, the Real Madrid and Spain manager who, according to those who totted up his lucky breaks, had what Spaniards call "a flower up his bum".

After Barcelona's freak League triumph, some pundits — without wishing to be rude — felt that coach Johan Cruyff's anatomy offered scope for a cohort of landscape gardeners.

In the history books, four consecutive titles will seem conclusive proof of total domination. But Barcelona, for the third consecutive year, won only because of an incredible slip by their rivals on the last day.

Miroslav Djukic needed only to convert a last-minute penalty to give Deportivo La Coruna their first League championship, but his tame kick was easily saved.

That gave the title to Barcelona, 5-2 winners over Sevilla, and deprived Deportivo of a just reward for two seasons of good football.

There was a strange whiff about the final day's meeting of Valladolid and Celta, needing a point apiece to assure a play-off place and survival respectively.

They played out a shamefully comic 0-0 draw involving one pass accidentally deflected into the game's only on-target shot, one corner produced by a similar deflection and, of course, no yellow cards.

The bottom line was the title for Barcelona; a place in the Cup-winners Cup for Real Zaragoza; UEFA Cup places for Deportivo, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao, relegation for Osasuna and Lleida; Rayo Vallecano v Compostela and Toledo v Valladolid in the play-offs and Espanol and Real Betis promoted.

Real Madrid finished fourth after being thrashed 4-1 by Zaragoza in the last fixture of a miserable season and Bilbao, immediately after clinching their European place, were rocked, during the crucial phase of presidential elections, by the news that coach Jupp Heynckes was abandoning ship and taking over at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Meanwhile, Barcelona were going quietly berserk. Morale was sky-high and the Champions Cup Final against Milan was being billed as the match of the century.

Cruyff claimed that Milan's style of play was little short of despicable in comparison with his own side's football and that only a victory for Barcelona would be beneficial, because other teams tend to copy the winners' tactical blueprint.

His comments went down like maggot-ridden spaghetti in Milan and served only to add determination, commitment and elements of sheer rage to the team's performance.

So unlucky . . . La Coruna's Donato (right) stopped by Mendieta of Valencia.

The Barcelona media confidently predicted confirmation of a shift of power from Milan to Catalonia, and the local sports daily *Sport* printed a special Thursday supplement containing immortal phrases such as "reporters from the Barcelona media agreed unanimously that Cruyff's side thoroughly deserved victory."

The reply from Fabio Capello and his players has gone down in history after a match remarkable in many ways. Normally the losers can point to 20 or 30 minutes of good play or territorial domination. Barcelona could not.

They were played off the park for the whole 90 minutes, and could feel grateful for a charitable scoreline.

So, five days after the League euphoria, Cruyff and president Josep Luis Nunez were sitting down to plan for next season and a thorough clear-out. Apparently eight Spanish players are transfer-listed, among them six of the World Cup squad.

The listed players are Julio Salinas (who goes to the World Cup without having started a single League game during the whole season), left-back Juan Carlos, midfielder Eusebio, winger Jon Andoni Goicoechea, his former Real Sociedad colleagues Aitor Beguiristain and Jose Maria Bakero, Quique Estebaranz (who failed to impress during his first season) and — wait for it — Andoni Zubizarreta, Spain's most-capped player.

He cannot be accused of poor goalkeeping. On the contrary, he has snatched chestnuts from the fire as regularly as clockwork during six years of acting as backstop to Cruyff's creaky wicketkeepers in the defence.

Zubi's crime is a willingness to speak his mind and answer back if he fails to agree with His Master's Voice.

Cruyff, after the 4-3 defeat by Atletico Madrid last autumn, wanted to exclude Zubi from the squad to take on Austria Vienna in the second round of the Champions Cup and, having been dissuaded, then dropped him from the following two games.

Although some — especially skipper Bakero — will be allowed to stay if no exciting offers come along, Cruyff is ready to jump into the transfer market again, despite having spent £27million on 24 signings during his six seasons in charge. There will be one foreigner

So lucky . . . Barcelona greet their remarkable last-match success.

Managerial changes already decided

Club	Out	In
Real Madrid	Vicente Del Bosque	Jorge Valdano
Bilbao	Jupp Heynckes	?
Tenerife	Jorge Valdano	Vicente Cantatore
Albacete	Victor Esparrago	Luis Suarez

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION —
Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	38	25	6	7	91	42	56
La Coruna	38	22	12	4	54	18	56
Real Zaragoza	38	19	8	11	71	47	46
Real Madrid	38	19	7	12	61	50	45
Athletic Bilbao	38	16	11	11	61	47	43
Sevilla	38	15	12	11	56	42	42
Valencia	38	14	12	12	55	50	40
Santander	38	15	8	15	44	42	38
Oviedo	38	12	13	13	43	49	37
Tenerife	38	15	6	17	50	57	36
Real Sociedad	38	12	12	14	39	47	36
Atletico Madrid	38	13	9	16	54	54	
35Albacete	38	10	15	13	49	58	35
Sporting Gijon	38	15	5	18	42	57	35
Celta	38	11	11	16	41	51	33
Logrones	38	9	15	14	47	58	33
Rayo Vallecano	38	9	13	16	40	58	31
Valladolid	38	8	14	16	28	51	30
Lerida	38	7	13	18	29	48	27
Osasuna	38	8	10	20	34	63	26

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24
WEEKEND

LLEIDA 0
LA CORUNA 0. Att: 12,000.

CELTA VIGO 0
BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 1, 54, Amor 55, Quique 90). Att: 30,000.

REAL MADRID 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 48, Imanol 87). Att: 70,000.

VALENCIA 3 (Arroyo 18, Mijatovic 31 pen, 49 pen)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. Att: 40,000.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Pablo 26, Villabona 61)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. Att: 16,000.

SPORTING GIJON 1 (Stanic 37)
ALBACETE 0. Att: 15,800.

TENERIFE 2 (Latorre 5, Piniila 19)
REAL OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 31, 84 pen). Att: 16,000.

LOGRONES 3 (Markovic 67, 90, Iturrino 80)
OSASUNA 2 (Arozarena 11, Ziober 72). Att: 12,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 0
VALLADOLID 1 (Momparlet 65 og). Att: 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1
WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 0
RAYO VALLECANO 0. Att: 27,000.

BARCELONA 4 (Amor 42, Romario 79, 90, Stoichkov 88)
SPORTING GIJON 0. Att: 90,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Menendez 9)
REAL MADRID 4 (Zamorano 12, 81, Luiz Enrique 63, Michel 85). Att: 14,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 4 (Higuera 22, Poyet 24, Esnaider 45, 88)
CELTA VIGO 1 (Carlos 64). Att: 20,000.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Setien 52 pen, Radchenko 90)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 2 (Guerrero 58, 66). Att: 17,680.

REAL SOCIEDAD 0
SEVILLA 0. Att: 18,000.

OSASUNA 3 (Pascal 8, Urban 40, Ziober 81)
VALENCIA 3 (Fernando 51, Galvez 74, 77). Att: 9,500.

REAL OVIEDO 0
LLEIDA 0. Att:15,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Garcia 5 pen, Caminero 64)
TENERIFE 0. Att: 40,000.

VALLADOLID 2 (Ivan 5 pen, Alberto 71)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 16,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8
WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 2 (Donato 57, Manjarin 66)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 14,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Amor 77)
REAL MADRID 0. Att: 110,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 3 (Aragon 53 pen, Belsue 64, Franco 88)
SPORTING GIJON 0. Att: 13,000.

SEVILLA 2 (Moya 58, Simeone 88)
ALBACETE 0. Att: 25,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. Att: 30,000.

VALENICA 5 (Fernando 16, Mijatovic 33, 45 pen, Quique 40, 78)
VALLADOLID 1 (Arnavisca 72). Att: 40,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Redondo 59)
RACING SANTANDER 0. Att: 15,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 0
REAL OVIEDO 0. Att: 16,000.

LLEIDA 0
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Kosecki 47). Att: 8,000.

CELTA VIGO 4 (Gudelj 21, 42, Alejo 48, Andrijasevic 79)
OSASUNA 0. Att: 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15
WEEKEND

BARCELONA 5 ((Stoichkov 19, 49, Romario 69, M. Laudrup 74, Baquero 87)
SEVILLA 2 (Simeone 11, Suker 44). Att: 100,000.

LA CORUNA 0
VALENCIA 0. Att: 30,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 4 (Moises 49, Aguado 69, Higuera 73, Poet 87)
REAL MADRID 1 (Michel 28 pen). Att: 40,000.

ATHLETICO BILBAO 3 (Valverde 3, 21, Ciganda 67)
TENERIFE 2 (Gomez 58, Dertycia 62). Att: 42,000.

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Radchenko 7, 40)
LLEIDA 1 (David 90). Att: 17,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 35)
LOGRONES 0. Att: 12,900.

ALBACETE 1 (Geli 53)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 77 pen). Att: 12,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Quico 86, Manolo 89)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. Att: 35,000.

OSASUNA 3 (Ziober 46, Sanchez Jara 49, Larrainzar 53)
SPORTING GIJON 0. Att: 5,000.

VALLADOLID 0
CELTA VIGO 0. Att: 14,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... **ROMARIO** (Barcelona) 30
2 ..... Davor **SUKER** (Sevilla) 24
3 ..... Meho **KODRO** (Real Sociedad) 23
4 ..... **CARLOS** (Real Oviedo) 20
5 ..... Julen **GUERRERO** (Athletic Bilbao) 18
Jose **CIGANDA** (Athletic Bilbao) 18

on his shopping list — a replacement for Michael Laudrup. The names of Benfica's Rui Costa and Steaua Bucharest's Ilie Dumitrescu have been bandied around, but whoever takes over the Dane's locker at Nou Camp faces a similar daunting challenge to the one Laudrup had to confront when he took over from Gary Lineker in 1989.

If you've seen television pictures of Michael's departure from Barcelona, you might wonder why on earth he is leaving with a stack of telephone directories. They were, in fact, weighty volumes containing no fewer than 33,000 signatures on a petition for him to stay.

"To have such support from the public has been wonderful," said Laudrup. "In my 11 years outside Denmark I have never encountered such a fantastic group of people in a dressing room

"The reason for my departure is the one you all know — the coach.

"I should be grateful to him for certain things, such as allowing me to enjoy my football again and picking up a lot of titles. But the fact is that I simply cannot put up with Cruyff any more."

What a shambles!

DEBATES about Barcelona's performance against Milan were largely overshadowed by the massive complaints about the choice of venue, which — it has to be said — were used by the local media to divert attention from the rout.

The media were far from exempt from the problems which Catalan fans suffered during the trip to Athens.

The Bosnian war left no feasible land route open, so that fans were condemned to use charter flights which, as opposed to the £100 trip to Wembley in 1992, worked out at a minimum £345 for those prepared to fly in and out on match day.

Delays in obtaining a slot for landing on the solitary runway at Athens were so acute that 70 fans hopped off a plane at El Prat airport in Barcelona, convinced they would not arrive in time for the game. Those who had reserved beds ran into all sorts of problems, from overbooking to cockroaches. Four-star hotels turned out to be several stars short of a twinkle and some families were booked into brothels.

Most came back complaining bitterly about the whole experience, which included being ripped off by taxi-drivers, abandoned by guides and marooned with no idea of where to find their buses to get away from the Olympic Stadium.

Despite UEFA's recommendation that fans of the losers be given priority, Spaniards were still stuck long after the Italians had got away.

When I visited the airport at 10.30 p.m. on the Thursday — 24 hours after the final — 3,000 were stranded in departure lounges and 2,000 more were camped out in the entrance hall, where food had run out and the toilets did not have to been seen to be believed.

The media fared somewhat better. We were confined to the reception area of our hotel for 11 hours. Having discovered on our arrival on the Monday that there was no bus to meet us, we were not surprised that there was no bus when we were called to the airport on 1 a.m. on Friday.

Like the Catalan fans, treated as cattle on the way out of Athens, we walked to the plane without any form of passport control, loaded our baggage, and took off 11 hours late.

None of us bothered to bid a fond farewell to Athens, and some fans later took their disgust a stage further by smashing windows at the offices of the travel agents who had made the arrangements.

GIBRALTAR

Lincoln top of the Rock

BAD NEWS for Manchester United . . . they finished second to Lincoln in the race for the championship.

That was in Gibraltar, where Lincoln dropped only six points out of a possible 30 and finished two in front of United.

Sheffield took only five points and finished at the bottom of the six-club League.

They will be replaced by Combined Services, who finished second in Division Two but will be promoted because the champions, Glacis United reserves, cannot play in the top section while the club's first team also play there.

GIBRALTAR — ***Final standings***

	P	W	F	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln	15	11	2	2	43	14	24
Manchester Utd	15	9	4	2	34	15	22
Glacis United	15	6	1	8	26	25	13
St Theresa	15	6	1	8	27	36	13
St Joseph	15	6	1	8	32	43	13
Sheffield	15	2	1	12	17	45	5

MANUEL MENA

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Each volume has more than 400 pages, with over 120 years of detailed information from 8,000 matches, giving results, scorers, team line-ups, venues and attendances.

Nations Of Europe usually retails at £19.95 per volume. We have five sets to give away, and you can win one of the sets by answering these three questions:

1 Who made his debut for England in a match against Portugal, scored in the first minute, and never played for his country again?

2 Hungary beat England 6-3 in 1953. What was the score when the Hungarians played Scotland in Glasgow the following year?

3 Which country scored the first-ever goal in the Euopean Nations Cup, now re-named the European Championship?

Put your answers on a *postcard*, along with your name and address, and send it to Nations Of Europe Competition, Johanna Spencer, *WORLD SOCCER*, 26th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. Closing date is July 20. All usual IPC Magazines competition rules apply.

● *If you wish to purchase a copy of* NATION OF EUROPE, *see the Soccer Bookshelf advertisement on page 67 of this issue.*

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

On top . . . Beckenbauer.

Beckenbauer in bother

A blight on Bayern's success

BAYERN MUNICH'S championship success — their 14th since 1970 — was unfortunately marred by the continuing controversy over their match with Nurnberg.

Meanwhile, the national squad were finalising their plans for the World Cup, with millions of their compatriots expecting them to reach a record fourth successive final.

Bayern, who finished a point ahead of Kaiserslautern, had some odd lapses of form during the season, but were worthy of their title and the accompanying £40,000-a-man bonus from the club, although outgoing coach Franz Beckenbauer won few friends with an outburst against the DFB.

Thomas Helmer's goal against Nurnberg should not have been awarded, because film evidence clearly showed that the ball had crossed the goal-line outside a post, not inside.

The DFB's decision to order a replay is still being debated. Even when a referee is as blatantly wrong as Hans-Joachim Osmers was in this case, he remains the arbiter of what happens on the pitch. To over-rule him and nullify his decisions opens the way to trial by television and a possible pile-up of appeals against other, lesser errors.

Bayern, who had won only 2-1 against Nurnberg, seized their second chance and scored five without reply. They duly won the title while Nurnberg went down, but the commission investigating the affair ordered that bookings incurred during the first match should not be wiped out. That was where Beckenbauer got into trouble. He called the committee members "a bunch of brainless lawyers" and was promptly charged by the DFB with unsportsmanlike conduct.

Another odd aspect of the whole unfortunate affair was that the referee was not the subject of any charge, but a linesman, Jorg Jablonski, who had signalled Helmer's goal, has been suspended from officiating at Bundesliga, regional and amateur games.

Defending champions Werder Bremen finished in mid-table but had some consolation by winning the DFB Cup, beating Rot-Weiss Essen 3-1. This was a sad finale for Essen, playing their last game before being demoted to the amateur ranks because of financial irregularities while applying for their professional licence to be extended.

Former international striker Jupp Heynckes is returning to Germany after coaching Athletic Bilbao. He replaces Eintracht Frankfurt coach Klaus Toppmoller, sacked even though his club finished only six points behind the champions.

Eintracht also have sold goalkeeper Uli Stein to Hamburg.

Despite a row between national coach Berti Vogts and Beckenbauer, and a surprise 2-0 home defeat by the Republic of Ireland, World Cup hopes remain high. Vogts would not release Bayern's Matthaus and Helmer from a long trip to Abu Dhabi, where they played only 45 minutes each in a 2-0 win over the United Arab Emirates.

They returned jaded and jet-lagged to face three club matches in eight days, which upset Beckenbauer.

Several other top players missed the trip, and the chief beneficiary was Bremen midfielder Mario Basler, who looked impressive in only his second international.

● National success is again reflected in attendances. The average at Bundesliga matches rose for the fifth season in succession, to 26,486.

On a high . . . Werder Bremen's Cup-winners.

On camera . . . the goal that never was.

RESULTS

BUNDESLIGA — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	34	17	10	7	68	37	44
Kaiserslautern	34	18	7	9	64	36	43
Leverkusen	34	14	11	9	60	47	39
Bor. Dortmund	34	15	9	10	48	45	39
Ein. Frankfurt	34	15	8	11	57	41	38
Karlsruhe	34	14	10	10	46	43	38
VfB Stuttgart	34	13	11	10	51	43	37
Werder Bremen	34	13	10	11	51	44	36
MSV Duisburg	34	14	8	12	41	52	36
Borussia MG	34	14	7	13	65	59	35
Koln	34	14	6	14	49	51	34
Hamburg	34	13	8	13	48	52	34
Dyn. Dresden	34	10	14	10	33	44	34
Schalke	34	10	9	15	38	50	29
Freiburg	34	10	8	16	54	57	28
Nurnberg	34	10	8	16	41	55	28
Wattenscheid	34	6	11	17	48	70	23
VfB Leipzig	34	3	11	20	32	69	17

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Helmer 24, 65)
NURNBERG 1 (Sutter 80). **Att:** 63,000.
● *Replay ordered by DFB because Bayern's second "goal" should not have counted*

WATTENSCHEID 0
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Sforza 87, Hengen 90). **Att:** 12,000.

DUISBURG 1 (Jasarevic 63)
KARLSRUHE 2 (Bilic 50, Reich 57). **Att:** 18,000.

BOR. DORTMUND 2 (Tiedle 3, Tshadadse 67 og)
EIN. FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 42,800.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Sergio 54)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Jahnig 78). **Att:** 16,700.

WERDER BREMEN 3 (Neubarth 21, Rufer 32, 89)
KOLN 1 (Steinmann 44). **Att:** 25,555.

VfB STUTTGART 0
FREIBURG 4 (Kohl 14, 82, Cardoso 51, 70). **Att:** 37,000.

HAMBURG 1 (Andersen 77)
BORUSSIA MG 3 (Max 44, Andersson 47, Wynhoff 72). **Att:** 24,850.

VfB LEIPZIG 2 (Franklin 70, Anders 81 pen)
SCHALKE 2 (A. Muller 31, Luginger 45). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

WEEKEND

KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kuntz 17 pen, Kuka 69)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. At: 42,000.

KARLSRUHE 1 (Rolff 34)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Witeczek 8). At: 33,700.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Foda 51 pen)
VfB STUTTGART 1 (Baron 15). **Att:** 34,000.

DUISBURG 3 (Weidemann 7, Eckstein 73, Kozle 77)
SCHALKE 1 (A. Muller 70 og). **Att:** 45,100.

BORUSSIA MG 4 (Klinkert 48, Dahlin 62, Fach 73, Wynhoff 85)
KOLN 1 (Kohn 27). **Att:** 34,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Marschall 66)
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 25,900.

NURNBERG 4 (Wiesinger 10, Golke 18, Oechler 56, Sutter 59)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Jozic 82). **Att:** 37,100.

FREIBURG 1 (Cardoso 82)
VfB LEIPZIG 0. **Att:**15,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

BAYERN MUNICH 5 (Scholl 47, 58, Labbadia 79, 88, Hamann 83)
NURNBERG 0. **Att:** 63,000.

WEEKEND

BAYERN MUNICH 2 (Matthaus 49, Jorginho 59)
SCHALKE 0. **Att:** 63,000.

HAMBURG 1 (Ivanauskas 34)
KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Kuka 18, Wagner 90, Kuntz 91). **Att:** 36,200.

VfB LEIPZIG 2 (Opoku 20, Edmond 79)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Hecking 16, Sergio 34, Kirsten 89). **Att:** 5,100.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 4 (Poschner 13, 57, Zorc 31, Chapuisat 86)
NURNBERG 1 (Zietsch 33). **Att:** 42,800.

KOLN 2 (Polster 63, 66)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3 (Weber 23, Gaudino 53, Yeboah 70 pen). **Att:** 32,000.

WATTENSCHEID 5 (Jozic 24, 33, 90, Prinzen 49, Lesniak 77)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Nowotny 63). **Att:** 4,470.

VfB STUTTGART 3 (F. Walter 6, 34, 83)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 22,000.

WERDER BREMEN 4 (Rufer 40 pen, Hobsch 56, Legat 66, M. Bode 78)
BORUSSIA MG 2 (Herlich 36, Dahlin 71). **Att:** 27,309.

DUISBURG 0
FREIBURG 2 (Spanring 39, Zeyer 75). **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

WEEKEND

GERMAN CUP — FINAL

WERDER BREMEN 3 (Beiersdorfer 17, Herzog 38, Rufer 88 pen)
ROT-WEISS ESSEN 1 (Bangoura 50). **Att:** 76,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ...Stefan **KUNTZ** (Kaiserslautern).....18
.....Anthony **YEBOAH** (Ein. Frankfurt).....18
3 ...Stephane **CHAPUISAT** (Dortmund)....17
.....Anton **POLSTER** (Koln).....17
5 ...**PAULO SERGIO** (Leverkusen).....16

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Luis in the limelight

LUIS FERNANDEZ is going back to Paris in triumph. To manage Paris Saint Germain, where he played in midfield with such success, and with such high earnings, for so many years.

Fernandez (above), a key combative member of an excellent international team, later a sweeper of renown with Cannes, the team he has managed so well, made no secret of his desire to face the challenge of Paris, where he succeeds Artur Jorge.

How strange to think that not so many years ago, Paris, mighty Paris, cynosure of the world, the arbiter of fashion, could not sustain a single club. The indifference was massive.

Indeed, the old Racing Club, struggling desperately to survive, were reduced to playing half their home matches in far-off Strasbourg. A recipe for disaster if ever there was one.

When Fernandez took over at Cannes, there were many who thought that he could not crack it, above all with a club fallen on pretty hard times. He never had any doubts. But then, he never does.

"When you intensely live for a passion," he says, "you don't always stop to think about the details. What other people may say about me is neither here nor there. The important thing is that Cannes came up."

When he looks back over a tremendous year, all he can see is his players. They were faithful to his style of play, and he and they came through.

He insists that he is no dictator, that you do not have to be one to impose your beliefs on the players.

A team should live in harmony, and he created that kind of atmosphere in Cannes, with pleasant, decent, loyal, receptive footballers who clearly respond to him.

Just to see them arriving for training at nine in the morning, he says, makes him extremely happy. "When a lad arrives with a smile, it's already happiness. But imagine how it is with 25 or 30! It's a victory."

As Marseille continue to navigate in increasingly choppy waters, doomed to Division Two next season, star players inevitably depart the ship. Like Didier Deschamps, who follows the lucrative trail to Italy, and Juventus. He will play in midfield, making things easier for the more exotic members of the team, winning the ball and giving it to them, clamping down on the opposition.

Marseille were deeply disappointed to lose to Montpellier in the quarter-finals of the French Cup — eventually won by Auxerre — and their present financial and legal position is parlous. But the season had its compensations.

Just as Monaco reactivated Jurgen Klinsmann, so Marseille have done the same, much more unexpectedly, for Rudi Voller, who had retired from international football, only to be recalled for the World Cup.

William Prunier, the international centre-half, was worried that there was no clause in his contract for an automatic release were the club go down. But who thought they would?

Prunier has said that last summer the various offers he received included quite a few from England. He will not criticise the egregious Bernard Tapie, saying that he did not tell the players much, but always kept his bargains.

An added irony is that though relegation meant there was a strong incentive to leave Marseille, Prunier has been very happy, not only at the club but in the beguiling if turbulent city.

"Despite the problems, there has been a super ambiance all season," he said.

Marseille's relegation means that Martigues stay up by default. Toulouse and Angers also go down.

Off to Italy . . . Didier Deschamps is leaving Marseille for Juventus.

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	38	24	11	3	54	22	59
Marseille	38	19	13	6	56	33	51
Auxerre	38	18	10	10	54	29	46
Bordeaux	38	19	8	11	54	37	46
Nantes	38	17	11	10	48	35	45
Cannes	38	16	12	10	50	43	44
Montpellier	38	15	13	10	41	37	43
Lyon	38	17	8	13	38	40	42
Monaco	38	14	13	11	55	37	41
Lens	38	13	13	12	49	40	39
St Etienne	38	12	13	13	38	36	37
Metz	38	12	13	13	36	35	37
Strasbourg	38	10	14	14	43	47	34
Sochaux	38	10	13	15	39	48	33
Lille	38	8	16	14	41	52	32
Caen	38	12	7	19	29	54	31
Le Havre	38	7	15	16	29	48	29
Martigues	38	5	17	16	37	58	27
Toulouse	38	4	15	19	26	60	23
Angers	38	4	13	21	37	63	21

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

MIDWEEK

MONACO 2 (Ikpeba 40, Klinsmann 52)
CANNES 0. **Att:** 8,000.

FRENCH CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

RACING 1 (Akiana 8)
AUXERRE 2 (Baticle 32, Verlaat 40). **Att:** 5,418.

PARIS-SG 1 (Guerin 25)
LENS 2 (Boli 70, Laigle 71). **Att:** 20,223.

NANTES 3 (Pedros 20, Ouedec 71 pen, Ferri 88)
VALENCIENNES 1 (Duncker 29). **Att:** 19,000.

MONTPELLIER v MARSEILLE — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

MIDWEEK

LE HAVRE 0
PARIS SG 2 (Le Guen 13, Rai 65). **Att:** 15,000.

MARSEILLE 3 (Anderson 7, 88 pen, Stojkovic 46)
LYON 0. **Att:** 28,000.

BORDEAUX 2 (Dogon 27, Lizarazu 77)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 29,642.

NANTES 2 (Ouedec 20 pen, N'Doram 88)
LENS 1 (R. Boli 13). **Att:** 20,000.

MONTPELLIER 0
CAEN 0. **Att:** 8,126.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Camara 19)
MARTIGUES 1 (Collot 53). **Att:** 11,379.

STRASBOURG 2 (Garde 27, Regis 54)
ANGERS 2 (Lagrange 49, Daury 64). **Att:** 9,868.

LILLE 0
METZ 4 (Sechet 26, 36, 84, Leclercq 81 og). **Att:** 8,000.

TOULOUSE 3 (Kastendeuch 15 pen, Pavon 28, 87)
SOCHAUX 2 (Caveglia 31, 59). **Att:** 5,435.

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 1 (Ricardo 72)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 33,980.

AUXERRE 2 (C. Martins19, Vahirua 65 pen)
MARSEILLE 2 (S. Anderson 40, B. Boli 82). **Att:** 18,000.

MARTIGUES 0
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 4,000.

CANNES 4 (Priou 30 pen, 44, Micoud 36, Sauvaget 79)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 8,000.

ANGERS 2 (Lagrange 40, 90)
MONTPELLIER 3 (Sanchez 64, Carotti 69, Rizzetto 82). **Att:** 3,418.

LENS 3 (Wallemme 34, R. Boli 63 pen, 89 pen)
ST ETIENNE 1 (L. Blanc 3). **Att:** 29,610.

LE HAVRE 1 (Bertin 68)
MONACO 0. **Att:**7,322.

METZ 2 (Zitelli 28 pen, 54)
STRASBOURG 1 (Hughes 2). **Att:** 9,110.

LYON 0
LILLE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SOCHAUX 0
CAEN 0. **Att:** 2,583.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

FRENCH CUP — QUARTER-FINAL

MONTPELLIER 0
MARSEILLE 0. **Att:** 12,000.
Montpellier won 4-3 on pens

WEEKEND

ST ETIENNE 1 (Camara 50)
PARIS SG 2 (Weah 44,62). **Att:**16,088.

MARSEILLE 0
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

BORDEAUX 4 (Zidane 2, Dugarry 34, 56, Lizarazu 47)
LENS 2 (Laigle 7, 65). **Att:** 25,000.

NANTES 3 (Ouedec 3, Pedros 22, 30)
LE HAVRE 1 (Ba 54). **Att:** 15,032.

LILLE 1 (K. Andersson 78)
AUXERRE 1 (Vahirua 14 pen). **Att:** 7,432.

TOULOUSE 1 (Pavon 75)
CANNES 2 (Hampartzoumian 3, Priou 33). **Att:** 5,616.

MONTPELLIER 1 (S. Blanc 57)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 8,000.

STRASBOURG 0
LYON 1 (Pele 8). **Att:** 11,332.

MONACO 1 (Djorkaeff 15)
METZ 1 (Gaillot 18). **Att:** 2,500.

CAEN 2 (Silva 45, Duboscq 78)
ANGERS 3 (Lagrange 8, 83 pen, Masson 42). **Att:** 17,110.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

MIDWEEK

FRENCH CUP — SEMI-FINALS

LENS 0
MONTPELLIER 2 (Sanchez 69, Carotti 81). **Att:** 45,000.

AUXERRE 1 (Verlaat 47)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEKEND

FRENCH CUP — FINAL

AUXERRE 3 (Saib 17, Baticle 48, Martins 86)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 45,189.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 22

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 4 (Le Guen 20, 23, Ginola 32, Weah 72)
BORDEAUX 1 (Senac 62). **Att:** 40,021.

LENS 2 (R. Boli 16, Meyrieu 42)
MARSEILLE 3 (Rui Barros 33, Fugier 77, S. Anderson 85). **Att:** 34,921.

AUXERRE 2 (Djetou 74 og, Laslandes 90)
STRASBOURG 1 (Hughes 75). **Att:** 18,000.

MONACO 1 (Grimandi 77)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 6,000.

CANNES 0
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

LYON 3 (Maurice 12, 72, Debbah 31)
MONTPELLIER 2 (C. Sanchez 7, 64). **Att:** 20,000

METZ 2 (Chanlot 46, Zitelli 55)
CAEN 1 (Point 9). **Att:** 8,934.

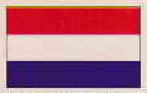
ANGERS 1 (Guion 54)
SOCHAUX 2 (Caveglia 35, Croce 87). **Att:** 3,006.

MARTIGUES 2 (Ferreri 30, Tholot 50)
LILLE 2 (Etame 76, Frandsen 87). **Att:** 3,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Tiehi 11)
TOULOUSE 1 (Pavon 88). **Att:** 6,123.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ....Roger **BOLI** (Lens) 20
....Youri **DJORKAEFF** (Monaco) 20
....Nicolas **OUEDEC** (Nantes) 20
4 ....Franck **PRIOU** (Cannes) 18
5 ....Anderson **DA SILVA** (Marseille) 16



HOLLAND

Thijs returns to a row

WHILE most clubs are plotting and planning for next season, Feyenoord are facing what diplomatically could be described as an internal squabble.

Coaches Willem Van Hanegem and Geert Meijer led Feyenoord to next season's Cup-winners Cup.

Now the club have appointed ex-chief coach Thijs Libregts (right) as general manager, a move organised by chairman Jurien Van Den Herik without the two coaches being consulted.

In Dutch football a general manager does not usually have anything to do with the running of the teams, but the coaches do not know what Libregts will do.

Van Hanegem was a player with Feyenoord when Libregts was chief coach, until he suddenly left and joined Aris Salonika. And Van Hanegem, never one to say anything other than what he thinks, points out: "If Thijs has anything to do with coaching or team selection I will seriously consider leaving. I don't want anything to do with him."

Libregts was Holland's national coach between 1988 and 1990 when — because of demands by his players — the Dutch FA sacked him.

Some good news for Feyenoord. Ed de Goey is Footballer of the Year, becoming only the second goalkeeper to win the title in 13 years, after Piet Schrijvers of Ajax.

PSV have started their build-up of virtually a new team by signing Boudewijn Pahlplatz, a 22-year-old striker from FC Twente.

Danish international defender Jan Heintze, one of the players given a free transfer by PSV, has moved over the border for a two-year contract with German club Bayer Uerdingen.

Arthur Numan, PSV's international midfielder, escaped an earthquake during a four-day holiday on Crete before joining the national squad for the World Cup.

ERIC NICHOLLS

AJAX AMSTERDAM duly held on to win the championship by three points from Feyenoord, with PSV another seven points behind in third.
Feyenoord took the Dutch Cup, beating Second Division NEC Nijmegen 3-1.
PSV, Vitesse Arnhem and FC Twente are the UEFA Cup contestants for next season.

PORTUGAL

Pinto plays a giant's part

SOME Benfica fans thought their club could be "consigned to the dustbin of history" if they lost their vital match away to Sporting Lisbon.

But a remarkable 6-3 victory enabled the Eagles to go three points clear in stead of one, and eventually to win the championship yet again, for the 23rd time, and started massive celebrations in Lisbon and throughout the country, where the name of the club is synonymous with all that is great in Portuguese soccer. President Manuel Damasio had told his players before the start that they must not concede that one-point advantage, "even if you have to eat the grass". The result was beyond his wildest expectations.

Joao Pinto, who has been perhaps the best of the Portugal squad in recent months, produced the game of his life against Sporting, despite cruel criticism from the home crowd, who have not forgiven him for turning down two chances to sign for their club.

He scored a hat-trick, Isaias added two more, and Helder added a penalty as Benfica brought off their most important victory for years.

The title means that they will be in the European Champions Cup again next season, with its consequent beneficial effects on the worrying financial situation.

Even more than that, the victory means that the club and the supporters can hold their heads high again after so many traumatic happenings in the recent past.

Poor Sporting. They picked a bad night to go into the history books, and many at the Alvalade Stadium were in tears while Benfica celebrated.

These celebrations were still going on at the next match, a 0-0 home draw against Guimaraes, when 120,000 turned up to carry on the party. A great many of them had been there since morning for the evening kick-off.

Benfica really are the soul of the vast majority of people in this country.

Sporting did not even have the consolation of finishing second. Defending champions Porto — under Bobby Robson, the coach Sporting dismissed earlier in the season — overhauled them, leaving Sporting third, five points behind Benfica and two behind FC Porto.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

MALTA

Talbot's tip proves correct

"I REALLY believed that Hibernians would be champions before we kicked off last August," says manager Brian Talbot.

He was right — his team won Malta's title in a close finish, by beating Valletta 4-3 in their vital clash.

Nine of the 10 teams were fighting to become champions or to avoid relegation, and Hibs did it the hard way. They were 2-0 down, then 3-2 down, but scored twice more in three minutes to earn their first title for 12 years, their seventh in a 62-year history.

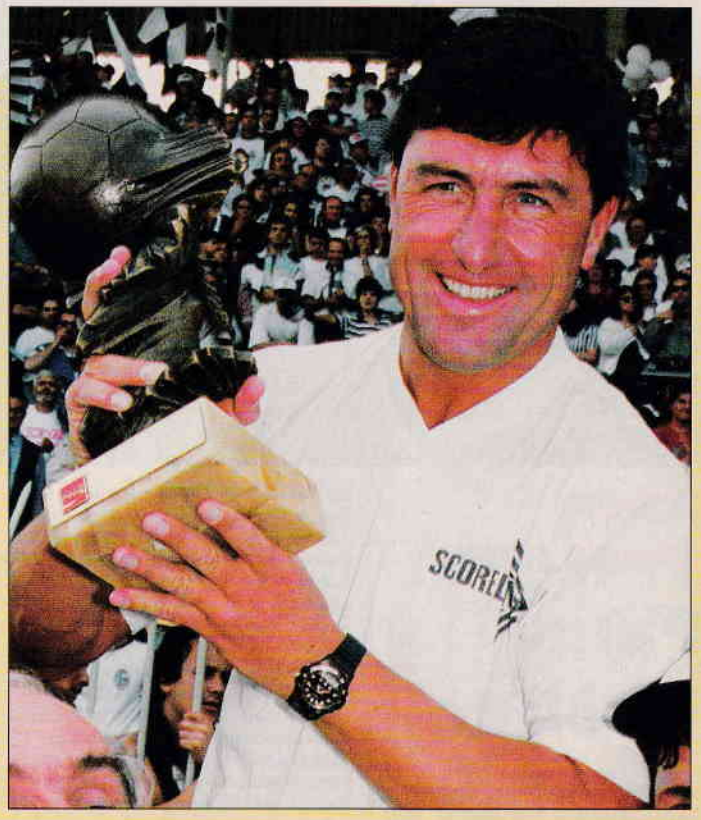
Former England, Ipswich and Arsenal midfielder Talbot (right) had blended an entertaining combination, with a free-scoring attack comprising George Lawrence, rejected early in the season by Sliema, Scotsman Robert Docherty and Carl Zacchau, a Dane. Zacchau and Joe Zarb of Valletta were joint top scorers, with 17 goals each.

Dethroned champions Floriana overhauled Valletta to take second place and qualify for the UEFA Cup. Rabat Ajax and Mqabba were relegated, the latter having taken only one point and conceded 55 goals in 18 games.

The finale coincided with Malta's biggest victory in 37 years of international soccer — 5-0 over Azerbaijan. "My players were not hindered by club commitments and showed their professional attitude," said coach Pietro Ghedin.

Maltese football had further encouragement with the election of the FA president, Dr Joe Mifsud, to the UEFA executive committee.

DOMENICO AQUILINA



SWITZERLAND

Sevette serve a surprise

THE championship ended with a big surprise, with Servette seeing off the favourites, Grasshopper, and their consistently most potent rivals, Sion.

Servette, only fourth in the qualifying stage, clinched first place on the last day of the season by winning 4-1 against Young Boys in Bern while Grasshopper could manage only a 1-1 draw in Aarau.

Just before the final round the "Hoppers" were acclaimed by the media as team of the season. Their young side, under a young manager, overcame the departure of several established stars with their fighting spirit and will to win.

International midfielder Thomas Bickel (left) was voted Footballer of the Year, with a huge lead over Lugano's Argentinian-born striker, Nestor Subiat, and Sion defender Marc Hottiger.

Brazilian Giovane Elber was rated the best foreigner, Mutrat Yakin, of Turkish origin, was named top newcomer, and Christian Gross was Manager of the Season.

Still the response of the fans remained muted, and the Hardturm Stadium was never full. The then top-of-the-table clash with Sion drew 10,100 spectators; on the same day, in the relegation pool, Basel against Zurich had a full house of 42,126. Yet Zurich is almost twice as large as Basel.

Servette's triumph, their 16th, was largely due to their Serbian manager, Ilja Petkovic, who took over last summer and has prepared the team well, relying on a mixture of youth and experience.

The Cup was won by Grasshopper against Second Division Schaffhausen, in a repeat of the 1988 pairing. Then the Hoppers succeeded by 2-0, this time by 4-0 — a record 18th win in their 27th appearance.

DENMARK

To the wire

THE DANISH League is racing towards its closest finish for years with just four rounds to go.

Three teams, Silkeborg, FC Kobenhavn and OB, were separated by just one point after long-time leaders Silkeborg surprisingly slumped 4-1 at Lyngby.

Maybe it was the pressure beginning to tell on the small-town club who have never been Danish champions, and who have been forced to sell key players such as international defender Jakob Kjeldbjerg to Chelsea.

But one advantage for Silkeborg is that three of their last four games are at home, where they have proved formidable opposition this season. And although FC Kobenhavn joined them on 25 points at the top of the table with a 1-0 win away at AGF, they hardly looked like champions in the process, needing a late goal against the run of play from Lars Hojer Nielsen.

OB are third, on 24 points, despite being the only side without an away victory. A 0-0 draw against in-form club Brondby kept them in contention. Brondby lie fourth on 22 points, still not out of the running completely, and hoping to complete the double after winning the Danish Cup Final against relegated Naestved.

An astonishing 27,000 crowd in the Parken saw the match scoreless after 120 minutes, and the clash go to penalties. Brondby keeper Mogens Krogh, the understudy to Peter Schmeichel at international level, saved three out of four rom plucky Naestved, and Brondby won the shoot-out 3-1.

Naestved, nevertheless, look odds on for a quick return to the Superliga, while a famous club from the past, Hvidovre, are set to climb back to the First Division after years in the doldrums.

Away from the domestic scene, most interest centred on the future of the Laudrup brothers, Michael at Barcelona and Brian at Milan. Both were left out of the Champions Cup Final, and both linked with Arsenal in frenzied transfer speculation. It would take a major compromise on salary to bring either of the talented brothers to England, but both are insistent on joining a big-name club.

JIM HOLDEN

AUSTRIA

Fans flock to Salzburg

AUSTRIA SALZBURG did not win the UEFA Cup, but still covered themselves in glory.

Although deprived of several key men through injury and suspensions they fought all the way in the two-legged final against Internazionale, much more experienced at this level, and both ties were lost only 1-0.

By way of consolation Salzburg made some £4million gross from the competition, and now look forward to further heroics in Europe next season. As I write, Salzburg are favoured to win their first championship having demolished the holders and biggest rivals, FK Austria, 6-0.

A capacity crowd of 14,000 in the modest Lehen Stadium created a carnival atmosphere as their team brushed aside fears of over-exertion before the return in Milan, and swept to their most impressive performance of the season.

The new hero is Brazilian Marquinho, the best playmaker in the League, who orchestrates the attacks and scores frequently. The only sad note was the bad thigh injury to Croatian striker Nikola Jurcevic.

The heavy programme took its toll at the beginning of May, when the Salzburger lost 1-0 to the bottom club, Wiener Sportklub, who are facing bankruptcy.

Everybody wanted to help Salzburg. Even the national team manager, Herbert Prohaska, had shown sympathy by releasing five of the six Salzburg players from his squad before a recent international.

Austria's record champions, Rapid Vienna, are still in dire financial trouble. They were guaranteed the use of their stadium in Hutteldorf to the end of the season, but beyond that the outlook is bleak. Crisis, too, in Innsbruck, where Wacker's German manager, Horst Koppel, is under fire.

A 4-0 win over promoted Vorwarts Steyr, managed by Hans Krankl, silenced the critics — for the time being

ARTHUR ROTMIL

EURO-TABLES

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Hoping for friends on high

TURKEY won the European Under-16 Championship in Dublin, but the FAI hope that they too won many new friends in UEFA, with their smooth handling of the event.

They now hope to stage one of the bigger UEFA finals in Dublin, where Lansdowne Road is capable of staging a major event.

Sligo Rovers shocked neighbours Derry City in the FAI Cup Final, taking the trophy for only the second time in their history, thanks to a goal by Coventry-born Gerry Carr.

Waterford have lost player-manager Brendan Ormsby, who has returned to England. Meanwhile amateurs Home Farm have replaced Theo Dunne with young player-manager Martin Bayly.

Stephen Geoghegan, who hit 23 League goals for Shamrock Rovers last season has joined Shelbourne. Geoghegan won both the PFAI Player of the Year and the Soccer Writers' Personality of the Year awards.

Highly-rated midfielder Alan Byrne also has left Rovers for Shels, goalkeeper Alan Gough has come from Galway, and Irish Under 21 full-back Donal Broughan has been signed from Bohemians.

Shelbourne hope to parade all their new signings in pre-season friendlies, including one against Manchester United, who visit Tolka Park on August 1.

Next season the League of Ireland will be run by the Football Association of Ireland. The first change will be to get rid of the top and bottom six and revert to the old championship format.

SEAN CREEDON

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg	34	20	8	6	54	18	48
Austria Wien	34	20	5	9	59	39	45
Admira Wacker	34	17	8	9	48	32	42
Innsbruck	34	13	11	10	44	30	37
VfB Modling	34	12	10	12	31	47	34
Rapid Wien	34	11	10	13	37	42	32
Strum Graz	34	11	9	14	34	39	31
Vorwarts Steyr	34	8	10	16	41	49	26
St Polten	34	8	8	17	34	55	24
Sportclub	34	5	11	18	21	54	21

BELGIUM — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	34	24	7	3	79	31	55
Club Brugge	34	20	13	1	54	19	53
Seraing	34	15	13	6	50	27	43
Charleroi	34	18	5	11	61	49	41
Antwerp	34	14	13	7	44	38	41
Standard Liege	34	13	12	9	43	22	38
Oostende	34	10	16	8	45	41	36
Mechelen	34	11	11	12	42	40	35
Beveren	34	11	10	13	49	47	33
Ekeren	34	11	10	13	49	47	32
Lommel	34	10	10	14	41	50	30
Cercle Bruges	34	9	11	14	52	63	29
FC Liege	34	9	11	14	40	59	29
Lierse	34	7	14	13	30	42	28
Gent	34	7	13	14	43	57	27
RWDM	34	7	11	16	32	49	25
Waregem	34	6	7	21	32	62	19
Genk	34	4	10	20	38	79	18

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MyPa	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
TPS Turku	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
FinnPa	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
FC Oulu	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
HJK Helsinki	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
MP Mikkeli	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
FC Jazz	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
FF Jaro	3	1	1	1	8	7	4
RoPS	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Haka	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Kuusysi Lahti	3	1	0	2	7	8	3
TPV Tampere	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
FC Ilves	3	0	2	1	5	7	2
KuPS Kuopio	3	0	1	2	2	6	1

HOLLAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	34	26	2	6	86	26	54
Feyenoord	34	19	13	2	61	27	51
PSV Eindhoven	34	17	10	7	60	36	44
Vitesse Arnhem	34	17	6	11	63	37	40
FC Twente	34	15	9	10	57	43	39
Roda JC	34	15	8	11	55	40	38
NAC Breda	34	14	19	19	61	52	38
Willem II	34	15	7	12	48	42	37
Sparta	34	12	8	14	58	57	32
MVV	34	11	10	13	49	58	32
Volendam	34	13	54	17	46	55	30
GA Eagles	34	10	8	16	44	57	28
Heerenveen	34	9	10	15	35	61	28
Groningen	34	9	8	17	42	65	26
Utrecht	34	9	8	17	40	63	26
RKC	34	8	9	17	38	56	25
VVV	34	7	11	16	30	62	25
Cambuur	34	6	7	21	28	64	19

NORTHERN IRELAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	30	21	6	3	62	22	69
Portadown	30	20	8	2	76	21	68
Glenavon	30	21	5	4	69	29	68
Crusaders	30	18	6	6	53	29	60
Bangor	30	14	3	13	45	49	45
Cliftonville	30	11	10	9	41	32	45
Ards	30	13	2	15	59	55	41
Distillery	30	11	8	11	41	40	41
Glentoran	30	10	7	13	46	43	37
Coleraine	30	10	7	13	41	50	37
Ballymena	30	9	6	15	37	55	33
Ballyclare	30	9	6	15	35	57	33
Carrick Rangers	30	6	7	17	42	81	25
Newry Town	30	5	9	16	26	52	24
Omagh Town	30	6	5	19	32	58	23
Larne	30	5	7	18	30	62	22

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	9	7	2	0	23	7	23
Brann	9	5	2	2	20	13	17
Kongsvinger	10	5	1	4	16	12	16
Lillestrom	10	4	4	2	14	11	16
Tromso	10	4	2	4	9	10	14
Viking	10	4	1	5	16	13	13
Start	10	2	6	2	9	10	12
Stromsgodset	10	3	3	4	13	19	12
Ham-Kam	10	3	2	5	12	19	11
VIF	10	1	6	3	11	12	9
Bodo/Glimt	10	2	3	5	14	21	9
Sogndal	10	2	2	6	8	18	8

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
Final tables — CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock Rov	32	21	3	8	62	30	66
Cork City	32	17	8	7	60	36	59
Galway Utd	32	14	8	10	47	42	50
Derry City	32	12	10	10	37	35	46
Shelbourne	32	11	10	11	42	42	43
Bohemians	32	11	8	13	34	35	41
RELEGATION/PROMOTION							
Monaghan Utd	32	13	8	11	41	38	47
Dundalk	32	10	13	9	37	27	43
St Patrick's Ath	32	9	12	11	32	38	39
Cobh Ramblers	32	8	8	16	31	41	32
Limerick	32	6	11	15	23	50	29
Drogheda Utd	32	7	7	18	26	58	28

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oster	11	8	2	1	22	9	26
IFK Gothenberg	11	7	2	2	26	12	23
Malmo	10	6	4	0	25	12	22
AIK Stockholm	11	6	4	1	21	12	22
Orebro	10	6	3	1	24	10	21
Halmstad	10	6	2	2	20	15	20
IFK Norrkoping	11	5	4	2	18	9	19
Vastra Frolunda	11	3	2	6	9	11	11
Trelleborg	10	2	5	3	9	15	11
Helsingborg	11	2	3	6	7	15	9
Degerfors	11	1	4	6	4	13	7
Hacken	11	0	4	7	8	25	4
Landskrona	11	0	4	7	5	23	4
Hammarby	11	0	3	8	4	21	3

SWITZERLAND — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Servette	14	8	5	1	29	14	34
Grasshopper	14	6	5	3	28	17	33
Sion	14	5	5	4	21	15	31
Aarau	14	7	4	3	23	16	29
Lugano	14	5	5	4	21	19	26
Young Boys	14	2	6	6	13	23	23
Lausanne	14	4	1	9	14	28	21
Lucerne	14	2	3	9	15	32	18

WALES — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bangor City	38	26	5	7	82	26	83
Inter Cardiff	38	26	3	9	97	44	81
Ton Pentre	38	21	8	9	62	37	71
Flint Town Utd	38	20	5	12	70	47	66
Holywell Town	38	18	10	10	74	57	64
Newtown	38	18	9	11	52	48	63
Connah's Quay	38	16	11	11	59	47	59
Cwmbran Town	38	16	9	13	51	46	57
Ebbw Vale	38	16	9	13	68	66	57
Aberystwyth	38	15	10	13	57	56	55
Porthmadog	38	14	7	17	90	71	49
Llanelli	38	14	4	20	76	100	46
Conwy Utd	38	13	6	19	55	70	45
Mold Alexandra	38	12	7	19	59	75	43
Haverfordwest	38	10	10	18	40	81	40
Afan Lido	38	8	15	15	52	66	39
Caersws	38	9	12	17	39	56	39
Llansantffraid	38	9	7	22	46	77	34
Maesteg Park	38	8	9	21	43	71	33
Briton Ferry Ath	38	8	9	21	33	84	33

ALBANIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Teuta	26	14	9	3	37	9	37
SK Tirana	26	13	7	6	36	16	33
Flamurtari	26	11	8	7	26	21	30
Vilaznia	26	11	6	9	33	28	28
Partizani	26	6	13	7	27	25	25
Dinamo	26	5	15	6	25	27	25
Apolonia	26	8	9	9	25	28	25
Elbasani	26	9	7	10	26	30	24
Albapetrol	26	8	8	10	31	31	24
Beselidhja	26	9	6	11	27	33	24
Besa	26	8	8	10	24	37	24
Laci	26	6	7	11	32	36	23
Lushnja	26	7	9	10	20	25	23
Sopoti	26	6	6	14	19	42	18

ARMENIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ararat Erevan	28	23	5	0	92	9	51
Chirak Gumri	28	24	1	3	101	20	49
Banants Abovian	28	23	2	3	111	21	48
Homenetmen	28	21	3	4	80	29	45
Van Erevan	28	15	2	11	71	49	32
Tsement Ararad	28	12	6	10	56	50	30
Homenmen Fima	28	12	2	14	54	43	26
Yerazank Erevan	28	11	3	14	44	55	25
Nayrit Erevan	28	8	4	16	29	61	20
Kanaz Erevan	28	8	4	16	37	75	20
Kotaik Abovian	28	9	1	18	57	76	19
Impouls Dilidjan	28	8	2	18	42	89	18
Zvartnots Etchm	28	6	4	18	42	79	16
Kassakh Achtarak	28	5	2	21	15	116	12
Malatia Cilicie	28	2	5	21	25	92	9

BULGARIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Sofia	28	22	5	1	78	17	71
CSKA Sofia	28	17	3	8	58	27	54
Botev Plovdiv	28	15	5	8	50	29	50
Chumen	28	14	6	8	49	34	48
Etar	28	10	10	8	42	33	40
Lok. Plovdiv	28	12	4	12	38	43	40
Beroe	28	11	5	12	33	38	38
Lokomotov GO	28	11	5	12	25	39	38
Slavia Sofia	28	9	9	10	30	37	36
Pirin	28	10	6	12	33	35	36
Lokomotiv Sofia	28	10	4	14	37	40	34
Dobroudja	28	8	10	10	37	42	34
Chernomoretz	28	8	6	14	30	36	30
Cherno More	28	5	6	17	24	68	21
Spartak Varna	28	4	4	20	18	65	16

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	28	17	8	3	58	20	42
Slavia Prague	28	15	6	7	54	28	36
Union Cheb	28	13	9	6	29	24	35
Banik Ostrava	28	13	7	8	46	22	33
Ceske Budejovice	28	11	11	6	32	30	33
Viktoria Plzen	28	11	10	7	33	23	32
Sigma Olomouc	28	13	5	10	40	27	31
Viktora Zizkov	28	11	9	8	38	27	31
Petra Drnovice	28	13	5	10	37	33	31
Slovan Liberec	28	11	8	9	35	31	30
Svit Zlin	28	10	7	11	35	41	27
Boby Brno	28	9	6	13	34	42	24
Bohemians	28	8	6	14	27	49	22
Hradec Kralove	28	8	5	15	24	38	21
Vitkovice	28	3	6	19	21	61	12
Dukla Prague	28	1	6	21	20	67	8

ESTONIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norma Tallinn	12	11	1	0	43	4	23
Flora Tallinn	12	7	4	1	31	7	18
Nikol Tallinn	12	8	2	2	26	10	18
Tevalte Tallinn	12	8	2	2	24	8	18
Trans Narva	12	5	4	3	38	11	14
Tallinna Sadam	12	6	2	4	16	16	14
EP Johvi	12	5	3	4	16	7	13
Esdag Tartu	12	4	1	7	14	27	9
Tervis Parnu	12	3	2	7	12	23	8
Dunamo Tallinn	12	2	1	9	12	33	5
Merkuur Tartu	12	1	1	10	8	54	3
Kalev Sillamae	12	0	1	11	8	48	1

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vac FC-Samsung	28	18	7	3	53	25	43
Bekescsaba	28	19	3	6	68	27	41
Kispest Honved	28	16	7	5	61	31	39
Ferencvaros	28	15	5	8	47	30	35
ETO Gyor	28	13	7	8	48	36	33
Ujpest TE	28	12	8	8	39	31	32
Csepel-Kordax	28	12	7	9	34	40	31
Debrecen VSC	28	10	9	9	35	32	29
Parmalat FC	28	7	9	12	32	43	23
VBSC Dreher	28	7	9	12	30	48	23
Pecs MSC	28	6	10	12	20	37	22
EMDSZ Sopron	28	8	6	14	31	49	22
Vasas	28	7	7	14	32	40	21
Siofok	28	6	9	13	30	44	21
Haladas VSE	28	4	9	15	24	44	17
MTK	28	4	8	16	27	54	16

MOLDOVA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tiligul	24	19	3	2	72	15	41
Zimbrul	24	19	2	3	59	16	40
Codru	24	14	7	3	40	13	35
Nistru Otaci	25	12	8	5	39	17	32
Bugeac	24	13	5	6	38	23	31
Olimpia	25	11	7	7	28	33	29
Torentul	25	9	7	9	31	25	25
FC Agro	25	8	5	12	31	45	21
CSS Amocom	25	7	7	11	25	33	21
Cristalul	25	7	7	11	23	35	21
Tighina	25	7	6	12	32	44	20
Vilia	25	7	4	14	17	40	18
Nistru C	25	6	6	13	16	39	17
Moldova	25	5	7	13	16	39	17
Sinteza	25	4	9	12	15	37	17
Speranta	25	3	4	18	19	53	10

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia Warsaw	30	16	12	2	63	22	41
Gornik Zabrze	30	15	11	4	49	29	41
LKS Lodz	30	16	11	3	45	16	40
GKS Katowice	30	13	13	4	41	27	39
Pogon Szczecin	30	8	18	4	30	23	34
TM Pniewy	30	11	10	9	39	29	32
Ruch Chorzow	30	12	8	10	37	36	32
Hutnik Krakow	30	10	12	9	26	26	32
Lech Poznan	30	10	11	9	33	28	31
Widzew Lodz	30	8	15	7	34	32	31
Zaglebie Lubin	30	9	11	10	39	39	29
Stal Stalowa Wola	30	7	12	11	24	34	26
Warta Poznan	30	9	7	14	29	42	25
Stal Mielec	30	8	9	13	27	40	25
Wisla Krakow	30	5	12	13	27	43	19
Polonia Warsaw	30	4	11	15	27	48	19
Siarka Tarnobrzeg	30	5	8	17	24	49	18
Zawisza Bydgoszcz	30	4	9	17	30	61	17

● *Legia Warsaw, LKS Lodz and Wisla Krakow were each deducted three points for their part in a match-fixing scandal last season.*

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua Bucharest	34	22	9	3	63	19	53
Dinamo Bucharest	34	16	7	11	65	40	39
Univ. Craiova	34	16	8	10	64	46	40
Rapid Bucharest	34	16	6	12	43	32	38
Farul Constanta	34	15	7	12	42	38	37
Petrolul Ploiesti	34	14	10	10	34	30	38
Gloria Bistrita	34	16	3	14	47	43	35
FC Inter Sibiu	34	13	8	13	40	41	34
Ceahlaul Piatra	34	11	10	13	27	40	32
UT Arad	34	12	8	14	35	49	32
Progresul	34	14	4	16	44	42	32
Univ. Cluj	34	11	9	14	39	42	31
FC Brasov	34	13	5	16	38	52	31
Electro. Craiova	34	10	10	14	25	34	30
Sportul Student	34	11	7	16	30	45	34
Otelul Galati	34	12	5	17	38	47	29
Poli. Timisoara	34	11	6	17	39	53	28
DU Braila	34	9	6	19	33	53	24

RUSSIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moscow Spartak	34	21	11	2	81	18	53
Rotor Volograd	34	17	8	9	56	35	42
Moscow Dynamo	34	16	10	8	65	38	42
Tekstilchik	34	14	11	9	45	34	39
Lok. Moscow	34	14	11	9	45	29	39
Sptk Vladikavkaz	34	16	6	12	49	45	38
Moscow Torpedo	34	15	8	11	35	40	38
Uralmash	34	16	4	14	51	52	36
CSKA Moscow	34	12	6	16	43	45	30
Kamaz Nag. Tch	34	12	6	16	45	53	30
LN Novgorod	34	12	6	16	34	49	30
Dyn. Stavropol	34	11	8	16	39	49	30
Zhemchouzhina	34	10	10	14	52	62	30
Krylija Sovekov	34	9	12	13	37	47	30
Lok. Vladivostock	34	11	7	16	29	56	29
Okfan Nakhodka	34	10	8	16	28	40	28
Rostselmash	34	8	12	14	35	52	28
Asmaral Moscow	34	7	6	21	28	53	20

SLOVAKIA

CHAMPIONSHIP	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	29	20	7	2	60	25	47
Inter Bratislava	29	18	3	8	61	36	39
Dunajska Streda	29	11	9	9	50	41	31
Tatran Presov	29	9	12	8	37	35	30
SK Zilina	29	10	9	10	42	36	29
FC Kosice	29	8	10	11	32	46	26
RELEGATION/PROMOTION							
Lok. Kosice	29	7	13	9	30	45	27
Bystrica	29	9	8	12	30	39	26
Chemlon Humenne	29	7	11	11	30	40	25
Spartak Trnava	29	7	10	12	23	31	24
Prievidza	29	8	7	14	30	40	23
FC Nitra	29	9	3	17	35	46	21

CYPRUS — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apollon	26	20	3	3	67	23	63
Anorthosis	26	18	7	1	67	16	61
Apoel	26	17	5	4	64	25	56
Omonia	26	16	4	6	77	33	52
Ethnikos	26	15	2	9	45	40	47
AEL	26	12	4	10	43	47	40
Paralimni	26	9	7	10	34	34	34
Pezoporikos	26	10	4	12	34	37	34
Salamina	26	8	8	10	32	31	32
Aradippu	26	8	5	13	29	49	29
Olympiakos	26	8	3	15	36	51	27
EPA	26	7	2	17	30	53	23
Evagoras	26	2	5	19	15	65	11
Apep*	26	2	1	23	2	89	3

* = *deducted 3pts*

GREECE — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	34	25	4	5	63	28	79
Panathinaikos	34	22	6	6	82	32	72
Olympiakos	34	18	14	2	63	27	68
Aris Salonika	34	18	9	7	55	34	63
PAOK	34	14	9	11	45	38	51
Iraklis	34	13	10	11	59	45	49
OFI Crete	34	13	8	13	55	42	47
Xanthi	34	12	9	13	62	63	45
Panionios	34	12	7	15	49	58	43
Levakiakos	34	11	9	14	38	45	42
Larissa	34	11	9	14	45	53	42
Athinaikos	34	11	7	16	34	50	40
Apollon	34	9	13	12	30	41	40
Edessaikos	34	11	6	17	41	56	39
Doxa	34	11	5	18	37	64	38
Panachaiki	34	9	10	15	36	56	37
Kalamaria	34	8	8	18	42	66	32
Naussa	34	5	3	26	28	76	18

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maccabi Haifa	37	27	10	0	92	25	91
Mac. Tel Aviv	37	16	6	5	77	35	84
Hap. Bersheba	37	17	11	9	51	37	62
Betar Jerusalem	37	18	7	12	72	48	61
Hap. Tel Aviv	37	16	6	15	58	52	54
Mac. Netanya	37	12	10	15	59	65	46
Hapoel Holon	37	11	12	14	41	59	45
Bnei Yehuda	37	12	8	17	47	62	44
Mac. Petah Tikva	37	10	13	14	35	45	43
Hap. Petah Tikva	37	10	12	15	45	53	42
Mac. Herzliya	37	9	11	17	36	51	38
Ironi Ashdod	37	9	10	18	52	54	37
Hap. Kfar Sava	37	7	11	19	32	56	32
Hapoel Haifa	37	5	13	19	31	76	28

MALTA — *Final table*

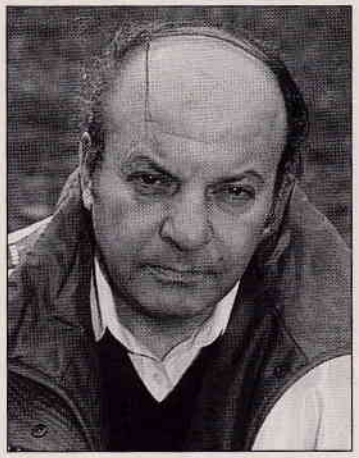
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernians	18	14	3	1	48	15	31
Valetta	18	12	3	3	42	17	27
Floriana	18	11	4	3	26	10	26
Hamrun	18	8	9	1	35	10	25
Sliema Wanderers	18	8	5	5	26	11	21
Zurrieq	18	5	4	9	18	29	14
St Andrews	18	5	3	10	18	30	13
Birkirkaba	18	6	0	12	19	36	12
Rabat Ajax	18	2	6	10	16	38	10
Mqabba	18	0	1	17	3	55	1

PORTUGAL — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	34	23	8	3	73	25	54
FC Porto	34	21	10	3	56	15	52
Sporting Lisbon	34	23	5	6	71	29	51
Boavista	34	16	6	12	46	31	38
Maritimo	34	13	12	9	45	40	38
Setubal	34	14	6	14	56	42

GREECE

Alketas in deep water



NATIONAL team coach Alketas Panagoulias (right) had said before the series of international friendlies preceding the World Cup that he would rather be beaten badly in these exhibitions than in America.

The first part of his wish came true. After a 5-1 slaughter of Saudi Arabia, the Greeks had their problems, losing 5-0 to England and 3-0 to Cameroon, and managing a 0-0 draw with Bolivia.

The latter two games were part of a tournament won by Cameroon after a 1-1 deadlock with Bolivia watched by a handful of fans. The Greece-Bolivia match drew 15,000 spectators to Karaiskaki Stadium, home of Olympiakos in Piraeus.

The Greek team and their fans, who were extremely optimistic that Greece would do well in the World Cup, started to have their doubts after the poor performances, but the always optimistic Panagoulias saw something positive.

"We got a good taste of what we will find before us in the United States," he says. "It's very disappointing, very frustrating. We are in deep water and we have to swim. In top-class international football, they do not excuse mistakes."

Panagoulias selected mainly veteran players to go to the States. The average of 28.9 years meant the squad took second place behind the Republic of Ireland in the age race.

"I selected players who fought and won qualification — in other words, the players who honoured Greece with their performances," he said.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

LUXEMBOURG

Beggan again

AVENIR BEGGEN won their sixth championship, and their second in successive seasons, when they thrashed Grevenmacher 4-0 with only two games remaining in the title play-offs.

Coach Michel Clement, in his third season with the club, also has guided them to the Cup semi-finals. They will play Jeunesse Esch for a place in the final, and a chance to complete the double, as they did last season. The other semi-final is between Aris and Dudelange.

Union Sportive, second place in the table, go into the UEFA Cup.

Beggen have most of the best players in Luxembourg, with this season's signing of Michail Zaritski from Borussia Mg they look set to be the strongest force for some time to come.

In Group A of the promotion/relegation groups, Wiltz's seven wins out of eight games and Spora's six successive victories gave both promotion, with Mertzig looking favourite for the third place as the National Division expands from 10 clubs to 12 next season.

In Group B, Red Boys are the only club already promoted, with any of the last four in with a chance.

The Player of the Year award went to Luc Holtz of Beggen, who celebrated by scoring twice in the championship-winning game against Grevenmacher.

TIM BRICE

TURKEY

GALATASARAY duly won the championship for the 10th time in 36 years, holding off Fenerbahce to finish one point clear.

Both clubs won their last three fixtures — Fenerbahce scoring 14 goals to two — but goals by Hakan and Ljung, in front of a crowd of 31,998, saw Gala home.

They deserved to keep the title they won in such controversial circumstances a year ago, when rumours of fixing were in the air, but German coach Rainer Holmann apparently still plans to leave.

So Gala stay in the Champions Cup, with Fenerbahce and third-placed Trabzonspor in the UEFA Cup and Besiktas in the Cup-winners Cup.

Bulent of Fenerbahce was top scorer with 22 goals. Hakan, with 16, was the only Gala scorer in the top ten.

The programme comprised 700 goals at an average of 2.91, with 59 dismissals — seven of them by Altay, who also had 75 bookings.

The European Under-16 Championship in the Republic of Ireland was a triumph for the young Turks, who beat Denmark 1-0 in the final.

They were well rewarded, with a bonus of £30,000 for each player.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller pleased players everywhere when she announced that the tax levy on transfers was to be cut from 50 per cent to 15.

HASAN CEMALI

ISRAEL

MACCABI HAIFA clinched their fifth championship, and probably their best, with two games to go.

The title crowned a year of achievements and records for the club, who had already broken the records for points collected (91) and goals scored (92), and have remained unbeaten.

A 1-1 draw with Maccabi Petah Tikva finally placed the prize out of reach of the only other contenders, Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Haifa's performance on the day was below par, but did nothing to take away the glamour of a marvellous season, in which Haifa played perhaps the best football ever seen in the Israeli League.

A recent poll by former Israeli Hall of Fame footballers voted Maccabi Haifa 1993-94 as the best side since the state's foundation.

Haifa's main concern now is qualification for Europe. Manager Giora Spiegel and his players hope to be included among the 24 teams in the Champions Cup, but probably will go into the UEFA Cup.

Maccabi Tel Aviv, who conceded the title by drawing 2-2 at Bnei Yehuda, will finish second and play either in the UEFA Cup or the Cup-winners Cup. They face local rivals Hapoel Tel Aviv in the final.

AVI MELLER

POLAND

League place up for sale

DO YOU fancy the thought of having your own club fighting for the First Division title? If so, and you have around £300,000 to spare, go to Poland.

One of the clubs, Tygodnik Miliarder Pniewy, are in trouble with the tax authorities, and have decided to sell their place in the League, provided they can get permission to do so and then find a buyer.

The club, originally called Sokol Pniewy, came into being in 1945, but had little success until 1990, when a large electrical company, Elektromis, took an interest.

Their injection of money helped to earn promotion from the Fourth to the First Division in successive seasons, then changed the title yet again, to Tygodnik Miliarder Pniewy — after a magazine run by Elektromis.

Unfortunately the rise did not continue, and hopes of a European place soon evaporated, although TM are a respectable sixth in the table.

Then came the stories of suspected tax irregularities, and the decision to put the club up for offer. Nobody can yet predict the outcome.

Legia Warsaw, and LKS Lodz, both penalised three points after last season's match-fixing, are in a four-club race for the title with Gornik Zarbze and GKS Katowice. Only three points cover all four, with four games to go. And they are all contesting the Cup competition, as well.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

LATVIA

Latgale's surprise

SKONTO RIGA began the Latvian season with five successive victories to go two points clear of RAF Jelgava.

Goalkeeper Raimond Laizan was in top form and did not concede a goal in those five games.

Jelgava also were unbeaten in their five League outings, but were surprisingly knocked out of the Cup by Latgale, the Second Division club winning 2-1.

Latgale are the only club from the lower division to get into the last eight.

The latter group includes Olympia Riga, who are not doing well in the League despite re-signing two of their former players, Alexenko and Shitik, from Sweden.

National team manger Yanis Gilis is now preparing his squad for a home game against Georgia on June 26.

VALERY KARPOUSHKIN

BULGARIA

Double up for Levski

LEVSKI SOFIA duly completed the double by winning the Cup Final, thanks to an 88th-minute goal by Ilian Iliev against Pirin.

But which club plays in which European competition next season? Levski may not make the preliminaries of the Champions Cup, because the Bulgarian coefficient is borderline. Instead they may find themselves in the UEFA Cup with runners-up CSKA, while Pirin may be in the Cup-winners Cup.

Last season's promoted club, Chumen, did well to finish fourth and take the remaining UEFA Cup place instead of banned Botev Plovdiv.

The Black Sea clubs, Chernomorets, Cerno More and Spartak Varna all went down.

The Cup Final attendance of 25,000 was encouraging, and perhaps a good World Cup and some better UEFA Cup performances in the autumn can put the football show back on the road — but not if clubs go on behaving dubiously.

The *Gol* magazine disclosed some "help" former St Etienne striker Gyorgy Slavkov was given in winning the 1980-81 European Golden Boot.

When an Under 21 international he was advised to could play only if he could bring forward his date of birth, which was duly arranged. Now he has one or two problems, so will soccer if this continues.

Coach Dimitar Penev may face the World Cup without his nephew — striker Luboslav Penev (right), who seems very unlikely to be fit after illness.

HUNGARY

Kozma back in the swing

PROVINCIAL teams Bekescsaba and Vac were left to contest the championship with three rounds to play.

Bekescsaba, from gypsy country in the south-east, lost a three-point lead with defeats at Ujpest (1-0) and Csepel (2-0) to stay on 41 points with Vac, about 30 km north of Budapest and one of Hungary's oldest towns.

The pair are four points beyond Kispest-Honved, the defending champions, who head ETO Gyor by another four points.

Fenercvaros were fifth, eight points behind the leaders, after an unreal sequence of five defeats in six League matches.

At Gyor, in one of the best matches all season, with top referee Sandor Puhl in charge, they lost 3-1. ETO's goalkeeper, Zoltan Vegh continued his brilliant form, leaving Tibor Nyilasi, Fradi's under-pressure manager, to reflect defiantly upon his team's play: "If I were a fan I would be clapping."

Worse followed, in the form of a 1-0 home defeat by Ujpest, who thus completed the double. The scorer was Istvan Kozma, this time with a penalty.

He had scored with a free-kick in the earlier match.

Kozma scored another "two-pointer" with a late penalty in the 1-0 home win over Bekescsaba, and has readjusted well to the domestic game, after his spell in Britain with Dunfermline and Liverpool. He regained a place in the national team for his 30th cap, in the 3-2 defeat by Poland in Kracow. The Cup remains the only hope for Ferencvaros to take part in European competition next season. They meet Kispest in the two-leg final, having beaten Vasas 2-0 at home, where Laszlo Wukovics scored both goals, and 2-1 at Fay Utca.

Kispect went to Siofok, recovered from trailing 1-0 at half-time and won 3-1 before a 2-1 home win.

MTK look certain to be one of two teams automatically relegated. They and Szombathely's Haladas, who are the third-best attended team after Fradi and Bekescsaba, have 16 points, four fewer than Siofok and Vasas.

The teams placed 13th and 14th will play off against the second-placed teams in the two sections of Division Two.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

CZECH REPUBLIC

HEAVY defeat in Zurich left national team manager Dusan Uhrin pondering his next step in forming the side for the European Championship opener with Malta in September.

Not much went right against the Swiss, and whether a change at the back is due has to be considered. Suchoparek and Kadlec have hardly any peers, an understatement, but perhaps goalkeepers Stejskal or Srnicek could be considered.

At the front, too, Uhrin will have hoped for better from the Irish friendly and from the late summer one planned with the French in Bordeaux.

Kuka will be needed in Kaiserslautern form, but he will not be able to do it all on his own. Perhaps Siegl of Sparta can solve the scoring problem?

In the League, Siegl and Co. were helped as the last games approached by a fall-off in form by their closest rivals, Slavia and Ceske Budejovice. The latter lost 4-0 at Drnovice while Slavia were falling 1-0 at Hradec Kralove.

Meanwhile Ostrava did some catching up, and a modest draw at home to Bohemians was sufficient to put them in second place. Cheb, too, are back in the running after a home draw with Viktoria Plzen.

The championship can hardly go anywhere but to the Letna, currently a building site, but the chase for second place looks likely to go to the wire.

Dukla are relegated for the first time, and Vitkovice seem doomed.

ROMANIA

COACH Anghel Iordanescu's anxious wait for the close of championships across Europe came to an end shortly before the training camp in Northern Italy, with bad news from nearby Brescia and from Spain.

Key defender Belodedici finished the season at Valencia with muscle trouble, and there are similar worries about Sabau, another vital cog. He is essential with his skill, high work-rate and running at the centre of things.

On the domestic front, "U" Craoiva and Dinamo, second and third and a street behind champions Steaua, go in to the UEFA Cup, the latter's 4-2 victory over "E" Craoiva giving them a one-point advantage over Rapid.

Defeat for "Poli" by Rapid in Timisoara put the Students down, along with Dacia Unirea.

Their replacements are Arges, and Maramures, comfortable winners of their feeder leagues.

The unlikely victors in the 56th Romanian Cup, Gloria Bistrita, beat "U" Craiova 1-0 to remain the bridesmaid in both premier competitions.

A modest crowd of 6,000 in the Sportul Studentesc Stadium, kept down by direct TV coverage, saw Ilea get the only goal, after 26 minutes.

SLOVAKIA

THE fact that Slovan are champions of the new Slovak League is no surprise. But team manager Dusan Galis is talking to the press. Now that is a shock!

Unfortunately fences do not seem to be mended with his own former boss, Jozsef Venglos, but perhaps that may come too.

There may even be a discussion with the excellent new journal *Futbalmagazin*, the country's first colour monthly devoted solely to football.

To clinch the title Slovan defeated Inter 4-3 in front of 11,000. The third phase of the championship, a la Suisse, has been in a title and a relegation pool, each of six clubs.

There has been little doubt for a long time that Slovan would be top and Prievidza be relegated, but interest has centred on the second UEFA Cup spot.

Inter faltered after a cracking start to the season. Then, a month before the end of the first "separate" championship, they were back in contention having overtaken Silina and a sinking DAC.

Otherwise only the Cup has to be decided, in Brevno, where Tatran Presov play Slovan.

The champions will want a double at the first time of asking, and possibly they would prefer to take part in the Cup-winners Cup rather than the UEFA Cup preliminaries.

BOB VAUGHAN

SAT 2 APR

ACTION: Nigeria, 2-0 winners over Zaire, reach the semi-finals of the African Nations Championship; Mali surprisingly beat a disappointing Egypt 1-0 . . . Blackburn narrow Manchester United's Premiership lead to three points by defeating the leaderts 2-0 at Ewood Park thanks to two goals from England striker Alan Shearer . . . Paris Saint-Germain extend their unbeaten run in the French league to a record 27 matches with a 2-1 home win over Cannes . . . Gianfranco Zola's late equaliser earns Parma a 1-1 draw away to leaders Milan in Italy . . . Real Madrid fade from the Spanish title race after a 3-2 defeat at bottom club Celta.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Pele, on a promotional visit, tips Brazil as his World Cup favourites because they have the best individuals.

SUN 3 APR

ACTION: Zambia beat Senegal in the African quarter-finals . . . Sao Paulo defeat Botafogo 3-1 in the South American Recopa Final, played in Kobe, Japan . . . two more goals in Spain for Bebeto as leaders La Coruna thrash Oviedo 5-2.

MON 4 APR

RUSSIA: Russia's 14 rebel footballers are given until Friday to accept Pavel Sadyrin as manager for the World Cup finals.

SPAIN: Bob Petrovic, a Serbian businessman and former Red Star player, spends £600,000 buying all the shares in Second Division Marbella from mayor (and Atletico Madrid president) Jesus Gil.

TUE 5 APR

AUSTRIA: Crisis-hit Rapid Vienna, £1.8million in debt, apply for a moratorium while they seek new cash to rebuild the club's finances.

BELGIUM: Standard Liege decide not to renew the contract of coach Rene Vandereycken, who took over in mid-season from Arie Haan.

CAMEROON: A Luxembourg-based company, International Mediator Construct (IMC), takes over as new sponsors of the cash-strapped Cameroon World Cup squad.

FRANCE: Leaders Paris Saint-Germain go down 3-0 to Nantes, their first defeat in 28 matches.

GERMANY: Leaders Bayern Munich lose 2-0 away to old rivals Borussia Monchengladbach.

HONG KONG: Dale Tempest scores a hat-trick as Hong Kong's South China beat World Club champions Sao Paulo 4-2 in the Marlboro Super Cup. Palhinha and Cafu score for the Brazilians.

SWITZERLAND: The presidents of the five continental confederations agree to support Joao Havelange unanimously when he stands for a further four-year term as FIFA president. UEFA president Lennart Johansson says: "We have been given the guarantees we sought including that no more World Cup places will be taken away from Europe."

WED 6 APR

ACTION: Nigeria (beating Ivory Coast on penalties) and Zambia (4-0 v Mali) reach the African Nations Final . . . Italy lose 2-1 in a training match against Fourth Division Pontedera . . . Hungary lose 1-0 at home to Slovenia.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona decides he does, after all, want to play in the World Cup finals and trains two hours in the rain with the rest of the national squad to try to prove the point,

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna formally file for bankruptcy, some £1.2million in debt, but may stay in existence if they can find a major sponsor by the start of next season.

BOLIVIA: World Cup boss Xavier Azkargorta threatens to quit in the player-release row with top clubs Bolivar and The Strongest.

COLOMBIA: National skipper Carlos Valderrama says he fears his knee injury could keep him out of the World Cup finals.

ENGLAND: The FA pulls out of the friendly with Germany, scheduled for Berlin on April 20, for fear of violence by political extremists.

GERMANY: Guido Buchwald, Stuttgart's World Cup veteran, agrees to transfer to Urawa Red Diamonds of Japan after the World Cup finals. Urawa have already secured the end-of-term signing of Eintracht Frankfurt's Uwe Bein.

GHANA: The managerial staff of the Ghana national team are dismissed on their return home after defeat in the African Nations quarter-finals.

ITALY: Pele, on his continuing promotional tour, welcomes the prospective re-election of Joao Havelange as FIFA president, denies attacking Ricardo Teixeira personally and predicts that Colombia will be the surprise team of the World Cup.

SPAIN: Jorge Valdano is reported to have reached agreement to coach Real Madrid next season.

THU 7 APR

ACTION: Colombia's 28-game unbeaten run ends in a 1-0 home defeat by Bolivia in Villavicencio.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he is confident of being fit to play against Morocco on April 20.

FRANCE: FIFA president Joao Havelange says he has proposed expanding the World Cup finals to 32 teams for the 1998 finals in France. He says the presidents of the five regional confederations found his proposal "interesting."

ITALY: Paul Gascoigne breaks his right leg in two places tackling Lazio youth player Alessandro Nesta in a training game. He flies back to London for surgery and is warned he will be out for at least six months and perhaps a year.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

DEJAN SAVICEVIC . . .

for an inspirational display in Milan's Champions Cup trouncing of Barcelona.

FRI 8 APR

BRAZIL: FIFA issue a statement in Brazil refuting as "absurd" claims against president Joao Havelange made by Castor de Andrade, one of the bosses of the country's illegal football betting cartel.

ITALY: Leonardo Vecchiet, who was head of Italy's medical team at the 1982 World Cup finals, is arrested on charges of corruption in having received £25,000 from the pharmaceutical company involved in the production of carnitina, the substance alleged to have been given to Italy's Cup-winners . . . Inter banish relegation fears by beating Lecce 4-1 with two goals from Wim Jonk . . . Gian Marco Calleri, former president of Lazio, presents himself at a press conference as new president of Torino.

PORTUGAL: Sporting agree the sale of midfielder Paulo Sousa to Juventus for £5million plus Julio Cesar in part-exchange.

SAT 9 APR

ACTION: Bayern Munich take a decisive step towards the German title by defeating challengers Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 . . . Barcelona's Spanish title defence hits a setback when they manage only a 0-0 draw away to Logrones.

GERMANY: The United Arab Emirates emerge as likely replacement opponents for England against Germany on April 20, given most other European nations' reluctance to take over the date.

SUN 10 APR

ACTION: Nigeria win the African Nations title, beating Zambia 2-1 in the Final in Tunis. Ivory Coast beat Mali 3-1 for third place . . . Milan draw 0-0 away to Torino to move within one point of the first Italian League hat-trick since Torino themselves in the 1940s . . . La Coruna edge three points clear at the top in Spain by winning 1-0 in Santander.

CHILE: Seven policeman are hurt and 40 hooligans are arrested after Colo Colo fans throw missiles onto the running track in Santiago as Colo Colo go two-down in 35 minutes to derby rivals Universidad Catolica — who eventually win 4-1.

ENGLAND: Eric Cantona, Manchester United's suspended French striker, is awarded the Players' Player of the Year prize at the Professional Footballers' Association annual dinner. Newcastle's Andy Cole is Young Player of the Year.

MON 11 APR

ENGLAND: Roy Wegerle may miss his dream World Cup campaign with the United States as concern grows over his slow recovery from a cruciate ligament operation on his right knee. Wegele says he will not be fit to play for Coventry again this season and will leave a World Cup decision as late as possible.

ITALY: AS Roma general manager Luciano Moggi offers to resign after being pipped by Juventus to the signing of Sporting Lisbon midfielder Paulo Sousa.

TUE 12 APR

ACTION: Arsenal reach the Cup-winners Cup Final . . . Austria Salzburg become only the third Austrian club to reach a European final in the UEFA Cup, beating Karlsruhe on the away goals rule; they will face Internazionale.

ARGENTINA: Jorge Burruchaga, suspended sine die throughout the world but training with Independiente, is given new hope of a World Cup comeback when FIFA president Joao Havelange urges the French Federation to substitute a time-limit suspension.

BOLIVIA: The Federation sort out a peace deal between warring top clubs Bolivar and The Strongest against national coach Xavier Azkargorta.

GERMANY: Lothar Matthaus agrees a new three-year contract with Bayern Munich on the day coach Franz Beckenbauer hints that assistant and ex-skipper Klaus Augenthaler could succeed him next season.

ITALY: Monaco's Jurgen Klinsmann is reported to have reached agreement for a return to Italy with Sampdoria . . . Toto Schillaci flies out to join his new Japanese club, Jubilo Iwata.

SWITZERLAND: Bob Houghton is appointed new coach of FC Zurich.

SUN 13 APR

ACTION: The sixth and final Champions League matchday ends with Barcelona and Milan topping the groups and scheduled to face Porto and Monaco respectively in the semi-finals . . . Parma reach the Cup-winners Cup Final for the second successive season after beating Benfica on the away goals rule . . . Poland beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 in front of only 200 in Cannes, France.

CAMEROON: Federation president Pascal Baylon Owona rejects the decision taken by his own central committee to dismiss him and elect formner secretary Maha Daher in his place. Daher claims Owona has not provided satisfactory accounts on the disbursal of a £140,000 FIFA advance to help with World Cup preparations.

CHINA: The Chinese jump on the bandwagon by launching their own professional league involving 12 teams playing 132 matches in 16 cities. Sponsors will be tobacco giant Philip Morris Asia.

GERMANY: Assistant coach Damian Halata takes over as caretaker coach of relegation-bouned VfB Leipzig after the weekend resignation of

Jurgen Sundermann following a decisive 2-0 defeat by Nurnberg.

ITALY: Milan agree the sale of French striker Jean-Pierre Papin to Bayern Munich for £2.1million. Papin's two-year deal will be worth £500,000 a year.

SPAIN: Real Madrid say Chile striker Ivan Zamorano, who has not scored in the League for four months, can go at the season's end. Stuttgart are interested.

UNITED STATES: World Cup organisers shock media organisers by issuing a security application which appears to have control for accreditation selection to the FBI.

MON 14 APR

GERMANY: Kaiserslautern bring new life to the championship race by defeating Bayern Munich 4-0 and cutting the gap between them to two points. Christian Ziege, Bayern's left-back, suffers a knee injury which may threaten his appearance at US '94.

SPAIN: Real Madrid summon a press conference to formally announce that Jorge Valdano will take over as coach next season.

SWITZERLAND: The Mexican Federation is fined £50,000 by FIFA for permitting advertising on referees' shirts in domestic League matches . . . FIFA decides to allow video evidence to be considered by the disciplinary committee at the World Cup final.

TRINIDAD: Sixteen members of Haiti's national team have an asylum request rejected by the US embassy in Port-of-Spain.

UNITED STATES: Major news organisations trash the World Cup organisers for demanding that officials, players and media give the FBI free rein to search personal records for security reasons.

TUE 15 APR

ACTION: Oman and Bulgaria draw 1-1 in Muscat . . . in France, Portugal beat Spain 2-0 and Italy beat their French hosts 5-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the semi-finals of the European Under-21 championship.

ARGENTINA: A Buenos Aires federal court accepts that Diego Maradona has complied with ordered treatment for cocaine abuse, and withdraws the case against him.

BRAZIL: Corinthians agree the sale of striker Rivaldo to PSV Eindhoven — the deal to be completed after the World Cup finals. Rivaldo is on loan to Corinthians from Mogi Mirim.

ENGLAND: Wembley and the FA reach a compromise over the split of TV money, gate receipts, car park fees, advertising and sponsorship under the terms of the 20-year contract for England matches signed originally in 1982.

GREECE: The World Cup squad settle their pay dispute, agreeing to a bonus of £3million to be shared between the 22 players if they reach the Final.

ITALY: Silvio Berlusconi rejects a suggestion from former star turned MP Gianni Rivera that he should quit as president of Milan.

RUSSIA: Bottom-club Lada Togliatti sack coach Alexander Irkhin and replace him with Alexander Kochetkov.

SPAIN: Bob Petrovic, new owner of Second Division Marbella, appoints former England midfielder Peter Reid to the coaching staff.

SWITZERLAND: Torino are cleared, by UEFA's control and disciplinary commission, of charges of trying to sweeten referees during their 1991-92 UEFA Cup run.

UNITED STATES: Opryland Productions are contracted as replacements for Walt Disney to organise the World Cup opening extravaganza . . . Greece and Colombia will play the first match on the new grass pitch at Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, on June 5.

WED 16 APR

ACTION: The United States are held 1-1 by Moldova in Jacksonville, Florida . . . AEK Athens secure a third successive Greek League title by winning 2-1 away to Kalamaria . . . Brazilian striker Romario is carried off with an ankle injury in Barcelona's 3-1 win over Valencia but X-rays reveal no fracture.

THU 17 APR

ACTION: Trinidad and Tobago win the Shell Cup, beating Martinique in the final in Port of Spain . . . Paris SG extend their lead over Marseille to six points in France despite being held 1-1 at home by Monaco . . . Ajax beat Twente 6-0 in Holland despite the second-half expulsion of Danny Blind . . . Milan clinch their third consecutive Italian campaign, collecting the vital point from a 2-2 draw at home to Udinese as Juventus thrash Lazio 6-1 with a hat-trick from Gianluca Vialli.

FRI 18 APR

ITALY: Gianluca Vialli, Gianluigi Lentini and Roberto Mancini are all excluded from Italy's provisional squad of 31 players from which the 22-strong World Cup party will be chosen. Vialli and Lentini are considered not fit enough by coach Arrigo Sacchi while Mancini had requested not to be considered.

BELGIUM: Robert Waseige signs a two-year contract as coach of Standard Liege. Waseige, currently with Charleroi, will succeed Rene Vandereycken.

GERMANY: Berti Vogts recalls Karlheinz Riedle and Ulf Kirsten for the friendly against the UAE on April 27. Jurgen Klinsmann is unavailable because of Monaco's Champions League semi-final against Milan. Squad: Illgner, Kopke; Berthold, Brehme, Buchwald, Helmer, Kohler, Matthaeus, Strunz; Basler, Effenberg, Gaudino, Hassler, Moller, Sammer; Riedle, Thom, Kirsten.

SWEDEN: Injured Martin Dahlin and Jonas Thern pull out of Sweden's friendly against Wales.

SAT 19 APR

BRAZIL: Dener, 21-year-old star forward of Vasco da Gama, is killed in a car crash.

ITALY: Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni confirms that he has reached an agreement in principle to take over at Bayern Munich in the summer. He would be the first top Italian coach to move abroad.

PORTUGAL: FC Porto striker Emil Kostadinov says that his advisers are discussing the terms of a possible transfer to Real Madrid.

SPAIN: Officials of Tenerife and Real Madrid approach an agreement for the transfer of Argentine midfielder Fernando Redondo for £2million plus striker Jean Esnaider in part-exchange and the receipts of three friendly matches.

SUN 20 APR

ACTION: Italy win the European Under-21 title, beating Portugal 1-0 in sudden death extra time in the Final in Montpellier, France . . . a string of national team friendlies take place, with the most notable result being the 1-0 home defeat of Holland by fellow World Cup finalists the Republic of Ireland. In another all-World Cup game, Romania beat Bolivia 3-0

GREECE: Panathinaikos beat AEK 4-3 on penalties after the Greek Cup Final ends in a 3-3 draw.

ITALY: Sampdoria win the Cup, defeating Ancona 6-1 in the second leg of the Final and thus also 6-1 on aggregate.

SPAIN: Real Zaragoza beat Celta Vigo 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw in the Spanish Cup Final.

MON 21 APR

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona, restored to hero status after scoring one and making one in Argentina's 3-1 victory over Morocco, says he was so nervous his legs trembled before the game.

WHAT'S ON

JUNE

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
International: Canada v Spain (Montreal).

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
Internationals: Italy v Costa Rica (New Haven), Bolivia v Switzerland (Montreal).

SUNDAY, JUNE 12
Internationals: Canada v Holland (Toronto), Brazil v Honduras (San Francisco), Sweden v Romania (Vancouver).

FRIDAY, JUNE 17
World Cup — Opening Match.

BELGIUM: Zambia replace Tunisia as World Cup warm-up opponents for Belgium in Brussels on June 4. A Belgian Federation spokesman says the change of opponent was necessary because "the Tunisian Federation disintegrated after their team's disastrous showing in the African finals."

FRI 22 APR

FRANCE: The Federation, finally, cracks down on Marseille in a definitive judgment on the scandal over the match-fixing allegations concerning last season's match against Valenciennes. President Bernard Tapie and former general-secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes are banned sine die; the three players involved, Christophe Robert, Jorge Burruchaga and Jean-Jacques Eydelie, are suspended for two years each. The Federation postpones Marseille's weekend Cup tie against Montpellier for fear of crowd trouble following the punishments.

JAPAN: A Kashima Antlers spokesman says Brazilian veteran Zico, handicapped by a calf injury, is likely to retire in June without making a single appearance this season in the J.League.

SAT 23 APR

ACTION: The United States lose 2-1 to Iceland in San Diego . . . Bayern Munich appear to step closer to German League victory but their 2-1 victory over struggling Nurnberg is a subject of controversy because the opening goal, by Thomas Helmer, comes from a shot which rolls wide of goal . . . Spanish leaders La Coruna drop an important point when they are held goalless away to relegation-threatened Lleida.

UNITED STATES: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter tells the CONCACAF Congress in New York that an African proposal would see the World Cup finals rotate automatically between regional Confederations.

SUN 24 APR

ACTION: Blackburn slip further back in the English Premiership race, held 1-1 by Queens Park Rangers . . . Barcelona win 4-0 away to Celta Vigo to move back within two points of Spanish leaders La Coruna.

UNITED STATES: Sepp Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, says on leaving New York after the CONCACAF Congress that any player suspensions imposed for corruption in the wake of the Valenciennes-Marseille case would be activated worldwide.

MON 25 APR

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie says he will defy the French Federation ban and remain as honorary president but will not go to the dressing rooms and will not sit on the touchline. Marseille's French Cup quarter-final with Montpellier, postponed from the weekend, is rescheduled for May 4.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich stage the coaching coup of the year as Juventus boss Giovanni Trapattoni, one of Europe's most successful trainers, agreeds to join the German League leaders during the summer to take over from Franz Beckenbauer. Bayern spokesman Markus Hoerwick says: "Trapattoni has signed a one-year contract with an option for another season afterwards" . . . goalkeeper Bodo Illgner pulls out of Germany's friendly against the United Arab Emirates because of a back injury. Coach Berti Vogts calls up Karlsruhe's Oliver Kahn.

TUE 26 APR

ACTION: Salzburg lose 1-0 "at home" in Vienna to Internazionale in the first leg of the UEFA Cup Final.

BELGIUM: Former World Cup midfielder Leo Clijsters is appointed new coach to Gent in succession to Walter Meeuws . . . national coach Paul Van Himst is offered a contract extension which would take him up to 1998 . . . Georges Leekens is named to succeed Robert Waseige as coach to Charleroi.

DIARY

CHINA: Qi Wusheng is appointed new national coach in place of German Klaus Schlappner.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich and Nurnberg are ordered to replay, on May 4, Saturday's League match in which video evidence showed that Bayern's opening goal by Thomas Helmer had not crossed the goal-line. Freiburg, battling with Nurnberg against relegation, announce an immediate protest against the ruling which is also described as incomprehensible by Bayern coach Franz Beckenbauer.

ROMANIA: Midfielder Danut Lupu signs a two-year contract with Rapid Bucharest after returning from Greece where he spent 10 months in prison for theft after spells with Panathinaikos, Korinthos and OFI Crete.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA bring forward the draws in Geneva for the preliminary rounds of its club competitions from July 21 to July 20. The first round draw is set for August 26.

WED 27 APR

ACTION: In World Cup warn-ups Greece beat Saudi Arabia 5-1 and Germany win 2-0 in the UAE amid a row over their refusal to release Bayern's Matthaus and Helmer . . . Milan and Barcelona qualify for the Champions Cup Final, beating Monaco and FC Porto respectively by 3-0 apiece.

AUSTRIA: UEFA, on the eve of its congress in Vienna, rules that Marseille should be allowed back into European competition next season despite their relegation punishment for last season's bribery scandal.

ENGLAND: Norway defender Gunnar Halle is ruled a World Cup doubt after cracking a rib in Oldham's 3-0 defeat by Wimbledon on Tuesday. Halle had only just returned to duty after missing 19 games following two operations to repair knee cartilage damage.

FRANCE: Fernand Sastre, joint president of the French 1998 World Cup organising committee, says he foresees no problem in extending the finals to 32 teams.

GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund release Leonardo Rodriguez early to join Argentina's squad preparing for the World Cup finals . . . Karlsruhe urged Sergei Kiriakov to make peace with Russia's national team officials for fear that he risks a heavy international suspension.

ITALY: Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti is questioned about slush fund allegations concerning the signings f Torino's Luca Marchegiani and Roberto Cravero.

ROMANIA: Steaua win 5-2 away to Dacia Unirea Braila on the last day of the League season to finish 13 points clear of runners-up Universitatea Craiova.

UNITED STATES: Coach Bora Milutinovic drops former captain Peter Vermes from US '94.

THU 28 APR

ACTION: Kuwait draw 2-2 with Bulgaria . . . Union Espanola of Chile draw 0-0 away to Brazil's Cruzeiro in a South American Cup play-off and qualify for the second round by winning the play-off 1-0.

AUSTRIA: UEFA's Congress in Vienna re-elects Lennart Johansson of Sweden as president; admits former provisional members Israel, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Macedonia as full members (lifting the total membership to 49); delays a decision on the reintegration of Yugoslavia; reports the most successful financial year in the organisation's history (£300,000 profit); and elects Italy's Antonio Matarrese as replacement for retiring Jacques George as FIFA vice-president.

BRAZIL: Brazil arrange pre-World Cup friendlies against Cabnada (June 4 in Edmonton), Honduras (June 8 in San Diego) and El Salvador (June 12 in Fresno, California).

FRI 29 APR

BELGIUM: National coach Paul Van Himst criticises Anderlecht trainer Johan Boskamp for refusing to release six of his players for pre-World Cup medical tests . . . Anderlecht agree terms to buy Georges Grun from Parma.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras striker Edmundo is suspended indefinitely and fined 40 per cent of a month's wages after another row with coach Vanderley Luxemburgo. It is his second club ban in six months.

GERMANY: The DFB's League commission rejects an appeal from Freiburg to reschedule last Saturday's entire round of matches rather than just the controversial match between Bayern Munich and Nurnberg . . . Berti Vogts says he has arranged to meet Rudi Voller to try to persuade the Marseille centre-forward to return to the World Cup team.

NORWAY: Federation officials promise to find a way round a row over the World Cup team's sponsorship by a brewery after teetotal captain Rune Bratseth threatens to quit the squad.

SOUTH AFRICA: A celebratory football match, acknowledging the key role played by sport in the overthrow of apartheid, is arranged against Zambia at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, for May 10, the day Nelson Mandela is expected to be sworn in as President.

SAT 30 APR

ACTION: Paris Saint-Germain make sure of the French league title with two rounds of matches to go, defeating Toulouse 1-0.

BRAZIL: Pele marries psychologist Assiria Seixas Lemos in Recife, the second marriage for both partners.

SUN 1 MAY

ACTION: Milan rest all their top players and lose their last League 1-0 at home to Reggiana, who thus escape relegation . . . Tecos win the Mexican championship, beating Santos 2-0 after extra time (2-1 on aggregate) in the second leg of the play-off final . . . Barcelona thrash Gijon 4-0 to narrow the gap behind La Coruna to one point at the top of the Spanish League.

MON 2 MAY

ENGLAND: Manchester United become certain champions as pursuers Blackburn lose 2-1 away to Coventry City.

HOLLAND: Midfielder Erwin Koeman becomes the latest player ruled out of the World Cup after tearing a groin muscle in training with PSV Eindhoven.

UNITED STATES: World Cup organisers say 16 matches are now sold out after 100,000 further tickets go in just over 24 hours of the opening of a special telephone order line.

TUE 3 MAY

ACTION: World Cup finalists Colombia beat Peru 1-0 in the Miami Cup; El Salvador defeated Honduras 3-1 in the day's other tie . . . South Korea beat Cameroon 2-1 in Seoul.

FRANCE: A Paris court sentences 10 youths to prison terms ranging between 10 and 15 months for attacking police during riots last year at the match between Paris Saint-Germain and Caen.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich thrash Nurnberg 5-0 in the replay of the controversial "no goal" League match. Scholl and Labbadia both score twice. Nurnberg have Kubik sent off when they are only 1-0 down.

PORTUGAL: Sporting's League title bid hits a double setback: they lose 2-0 away to FC Porto and have three players sent off — Polish striker Andrzej Juskowiak, Serb defender Budomir Vujacic and midfielder Emilio Peixe.

WED 4 MAY

ACTION: Arsenal beat holders Parma 1-0 in the Cup-winners Cup Final . . . in friendly internationals Poland beat Hungary 3-2 and Bolivia beat fellow World Cup finalists Saudi Arabia 1-0 in Cannes, France . . . Brazil beat Iceland 3-0 thanks to a starring performance from young Ronaldo.

BULGARIA: Bulgaria's World Cup players can earn bonuses of up to £70,000 each if they do well at the finals.

ENGLAND: Luton goalkeeper Juergen Sommer is called up for the US World Cup squad.

UNITED STATES: Tourism officials in San Francisco and Boston voice concerns that the influx of foreign visitors for the World Cup will be nothing like the levels suggested by World Cup organisers.

THU 5 MAY

ACTION: Sweden beat a weakened Nigeria 3-1 in Stockholm . . . Colombia win the Copa Miami, beating El Salvador 3-0 in their second match.

AUSTRALIA: Eddie Thomson includes seven overseas-based players in his squad for two international matches against South Africa in Adelaide on June 8 and Sydney on June 14. Squad: Bosnich (A Villa), Durakovic (S Melbourne), Horvat (Melbourne Knights), Ivanovic (Adelaide C), Longo (Cercle Brugge), Markovski (Morwell Falcons), Mori (Adelaide C), Okon (Club Brugge), Polak (S Melbourne), Lazaridis (W Adelaide), Schwarzer (Marconi Fairfield), Slater (Lens), Tobin (Adelaide C), Van Blerk (GA Eagles, Hol), Veart (Adelaide C), Viduka (Melbourne Knights), Aurelio Vidmar (Waregem, Bel), Tony Vidmar (Adelaide C), Wade (S Melbourne), Zabica (Adelaide C), Zelic (Borussia Dortmund).

BRAZIL: Confusion reigns over the whereabouts of the father of Barcelona striker Romario who is kidnapped by abductors reportedly seeking a £4million ransom.

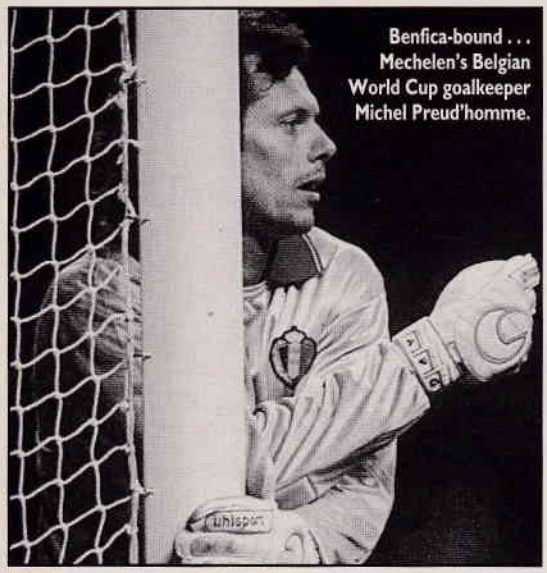
GREECE: Former Everton manager Howard Kendall is appointed coach to Xanthi for next season.

FRI 6 MAY

HOLLAND: Ruud Gullit is, as predicted, included in Holland's provisional selection for the World Cup finals.

ITALY: Milan midfielder Stefano Eranio tears his left achilles tendon and is ruled out of both the Champions Cup Final against Barcelona and the World Cup finals . . . Ruud Gullit agrees details of his transfer back to

global TRANSFERS



Benfica-bound . . . Mechelen's Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.

(Loan moves in italics)

Jocelyn **ANGLOMA**	D	Marseille	Torino
Rui **BARROS**	M	Marseille	FC Porto
Tony **DALEY**	F	Aston Villa	Wolves
Giovane **ELBER**	F	Milan	VfB Stuttgart
Brad **FRIEDEL**	G	USSF	Newcastle Utd
Paul **FURLONG**	F	Watford	Chelsea
Ilia **IVIC**	F	Red Star Belgrade	Olympiakos
Danut **LUPU**	M	Panathinaikos	Rapid Bucharest
Luc **NILIS**	F	Anderlecht	PSV Eindhoven
Michel **PREUD'HOMME**	G	Mechelen	Benfica
Bryan **ROBSON**	M	Manchester Utd	Middlesbrough
Stefan **SCHWARZ**	M	Benfica	Arsenal
Michael **STENSGAARD**	G	Hvidovre IF	Liverpool
Carl **VEART**	A	Adelaide City	Sheffield United
Ray **WILKINS**	M	QPR	Crystal Palace

Milan from Sampdoria and trains with his old and new team-mates at Milanello . . . Cagliari sign Uruguayan coach Oscar Washington Tabarez, formerly with Penarol and Boca Juniors and Uruguay's 1990 World Cup manager.

SPAIN: Barcelona striker Romario says he will wait until after playing in the weekend's crucial League game against Real Madid before flying home to Rio de Janeiro following the kidnapping there of his father.

SAT 7 MAY

ACTION: United States beat Estonia 4-0 before a mere 2,000-plus in Fullerton . . . the English Premiership ends in relegation-zone drama as Oldham and Sheffield United join Swindon in going down and Everton hit back from 2-0 down to beat Wimbledon 3-2 and stay up . . . Nantes and Bordeaux secure UEFA Cup qualification in France . . . Bayern Munich beat Schalke 2-0 on the last day in Germany to win their first League title in four years . . . Barcelona, despite all the extra pressures invoked by the kidnapping of Romario's father, win 1-0 away to Real Madrid — with Romario playing.

CAMEROON: FIFA withdraws its threat to ban Cameroon from the World Cup after the government promises to end opposition to the appointment of Maha Daher as new president of the Federation.

SUN 8 MAY

ACTION: Ajax lose to Willem II by 2-1 on the last day of their latest Dutch championship-winning season . . . La Coruna win 2-0 away to Logrones to keep one point clear of Barcelona in Spain with one game to go.

BRAZIL: Romario's father is released unharmed by his kidnappers in Rio de Janeiro.

MON 9 MAY

ACTION: Greece crash 3-0 at home in Athens to fellow World Cup finalists Cameroon, who include Roger Milla for the full 90 minutes.

BELGIUM: Gent appeal to the Belgian Federation about the behaviour of Anderlecht fans, who invaded the pitch, destroying goal fittings and advertising hoardings just before the scheduled end of Sunday's match in which Anderlecht secured the League title.

BRAZIL: Romario offers to show his gratitude to the Brazilian people for their "support during the kidnapping of my father" by scoring the goals which will win the World Cup.

GERMANY: Kaiserslautern's Stefan Kuntz and Martin Wagner are named by national coach Berti Vogts as the last two members to complete his 22-strong World Cup squad. Wagner covers for the injured Christian Ziege while Kuntz earned his recall by finishing as 18-goal League top scorer . . . Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Thorsten Legat tells a radio interviewer that Jupp Heynckes is to return from Athletic Bilbao as new coach.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit signs his new one-year contract for Milan, a deal worth £700,000.

TUE 10 MAY

ARGENTINA: Claudio Caniggia makes his return to action after his 13-month dope-test ban. Caniggia helps his Italian club, Roma, beat his original club River Plate 3-1 in a tournament in Buenos Aires. Caniggia scores Roma's second goal and creates the third.

BRAZIL: National coach Carlos Alberto Parreira includes teenage Cruzeiro starlet Ronaldo is his 22-strong World Cup squad.

ENGLAND: Russia winger Andrei Kanchelskis delights Manchester United by signing a new five-year contract top quell speculation that the weekend's FA Cup Final might be his last game for the club.

MALAYSIA: Datu Hamzah announces his impending retirement, on health grounds, as president of the Asian confederation just before the start of the AFC Congress.

SWEDEN: World Cup forward Klas Ingesson is lucky to escape with minor injuries after his car crashes into a moose crossing a road near Tranas, southern Sweden.

WED 11 MAY

ACTION: Internazionale win the UEFA Cup, beating Casino Austria Salzburg 1-0 (2-0 on aggregate) in the second leg in Milan. Wim Jonk scores the goal . . . Cameroon and Bolivia draw 1-1 in a World Cup warm-up friendly in Athens . . . Samsunspor of Turkey beat Ioannina of Greece 2-0 (5-0 on agg) in the second leg of the Balkan Cup Final.

CHILE: Parliament approves draft proposals to introduce jail sentences of up to five years for convicted hooligans.

FRANCE: Montpellier (2-0 winners at Lens) and Auxerre (1-0 winners at home to Nantes) win the Cup semi-finals to earn places in the final on Saturday. Nantes had two players sent off for dissent late in the game after an "equaliser" was ruled offside.

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt buy World Cup goalkeeper Andy Kopke from relegated Nurnberg.

MALAYSIA: FIFA president Joao Havelange says that Colombia and Australia have expressed an interesting in hosting the 2002 World Cup finals. The Australian bid turns out to be a unilateral approach by the city of Melbourne, lacking the blessing of the Australian Federation.

SWITZERLAND: Servette win their first League title in nine years when they beat Young Boys 4-1, finishing one point clear of Grasshopper Zurich.

TEAM OF THE MONTH

MILAN. . .
for their astounding performance against Barcelona in the Champions Cup Final.

THU 12 MAY

ACTION: South Korea draw 2-2 in Seoul with Brazilian club Internacional.

ARGENTINA: Argentina pull out of their pre-World Cup visit to Japan for the Kirin Cup after the Japanese immigration authorities reject a visa application from Diego Maradona because of his past drugs problems.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras won the Sao Paulo championship for the second year running when they beat Santo Andre 1-0 while nearest rivals Sao Paulo are held to a 4-4 draw by Novorizontino.

CYPRUS: International defender George Constantinou is charged by police with third-party involvement in a match-fixing scandal involving allegations that players from Ethnikos were bribed to throw an important match against champions Apollon.

ENGLAND: Tottenham face the possibility of enforced relegation from the Premiership after being charged with misconduct over loan payments to players between 1985 and 1989 . . . veteran stars Bruce Grobbelaar and Ronnie Whelan are released by Liverpool.

FRANCE: Marseille offer veteran Rudi Voller, 34, a new two-year contract.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord beat NEC Nijmegen 2-1 in the Cup final.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit marries girlfriend Cristina Pensa at a civil ceremony in Milan. Guests include Franco Baresi, Marco Van Basten and Jurgen Klinsmann . . . Milan sign Italy midfielder Giovanni Stroppa from Foggia and sell Brazilian forward Elber (who had been on loan to new Swiss champions Servette) to German club Stuttgart.

SCOTLAND: Rangers forward Duncan Ferguson is banned for 12 matches for head-butting Raith's John McStay in a League game on April 16. Unless he appeals, he will miss the forthcoming SFA Cup Final.

SWEDEN: Norrkoping beat Helsingborg 4-3 in extra time in the Cup final.

FRI 13 MAY

ACTION: Greece and Bolivia draw 0-0 in Athens . . . Independiente beat Roma 2-1 to win an Italo-Argentinian four-team tournament in Mar del Plata. Roma captain Giuseppe Giannini is sent off after 30 minutes, Argentinian forward Claudio Caniggia, in his second comeback match, is substituted after 60.

ARGENTINA: The Japanese embassy in Buenos Aires was attacked with a teargas grenade in the wake of the Japanese decision to refuse a visa for Diego Maradona. AFA president Julio Grondona contradicts an earlier players' vote when he says no decisuion has been taken on whether to call off the trip.

ENGLAND: Liverpool transfer-list Danish defender Torben Piechnik.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich introduce new coach Giovanni Trapattoni to players and media and he confirms that Andy Moller may follow him from Juventus.

ICELAND: Former Scotland midfielder Jim Bett joins KR Reykjavik as player-coach.

MALAYSIA: The Asian confederation congress elects Chung Mong-Joon of South Korea as AFC vice-president with FIFA. He receives 11 votes, followed by Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al Ahmed Al Sabah from Kuwait with 10, Muhammad Hammam al-Abdullah of Qatar with eight and Tadao Murata of Japan with two. In a second vote, Sultan Ahmad Shah succeeds Malaysian, Hamzah Abu Samah as president — Hamzah having travelled to the United States for treatment for a heart condition.

SAT 14 MAY

ACTION: Manchester United become English football's fourth double-winners of the century when they beat Chelsea 4-0 in the FA Cup Final . . . Auxerre win their first major trophy, beating Montpellier 3-0 in the French Cup final . . . Werder Bremen beat Rot-Weiss Essen 3-1 in the German Cup final . . . Barcelona overtake La Coruna on goal aggregate to win the Spanish League title in the last round of the season.

SUN 15 MAY

ACTION: The United States squeak a 1-0 win over Armenia . . . Grasshopper beat Schaffhausen 4-0 in the Swiss Cup final . . . Galatasaray win the Turkish League title on the last day of matches.

MON 16 MAY

BELGIUM: Lorenzo Staelens of Club Brugge is voted Footballer of the Year, with Romania's Dorinel Munteanu (Cercle Brugge) runner-up and Josip Weber third.

FRANCE: New champions PSG dismiss coach Artur Jorge and appoint Cannes boss Luis Fernandez, a former PSG player.

GERMANY: Jupp Heynckes returns from Bilbao to take over Eintracht.

OBITUARY

HELMUT KAESER, former FIFA general secretary, died at home aged 82. Kaeser, a Swiss citizen, administered FIFA for 21 years until 1981, having been Swiss FA secretary from 1942 until 1960. He also was a doctor of law and served in the Swiss Department of National Economy.

J.LEAGUE MIKE PLASTOW & MICHI ISHIJIMA report on ASIA's No.1 League

Sanfrecce nearly there

A CRUSHING 4-1 away win extended Sanfrecce Hiroshima's lead in the J.League over champions Verdy Kawasaki. That match was revenge for the 5-0 home defeat earlier this season, and was Sanfrecce's (formerly Mazda) first victory over Verdy (Yomiuri) since May 1987.

"That was our best result of the season," said manager Stuart Baxter. Verdy manager Yasutaro Matsuki said: "They didn't let us do anything from the start. It was a total defeat. We saw the difference between a team chasing the title and a team that is not."

Ivan Hasek now has 11 goals in 14 appearances. But the three against Verdy — two headers and a volley from a cross by Takumi Shima — were all rather special.

So was the other goal, a 25-yard drive by midfielder Hajime Moriyasu.

Sanfrecce must now do without winger Noh Jung-Yoon, who joined South Korea's squad for the US directly after the Verdy match. His position probably will be taken by Ivan Hasek, with Shima playing alongside Takagi, and Pavel Cerny still supporting from the left.

While Sanfrecce go from strength to strength, the big surprise has been the collapse of Shimizu S Pulse. Leao's team had only lost one match (in extra time to Antlers) in the first half of the series. The second defeat came on penalties in the return against Antlers, following a 3-3 draw. Big Brazilian defender Ronaldo missed that one through sickness, and keeper Sidmar was concussed near the end, so Shimizu had plenty of excuses.

"It was a fine game for the fans," said Leao, "and a hard match for people doing a job. This sudden-death system is not good. We still haven't lost in normal time."

Then Shimizu started losing in earnest: 2-0 to Verdy, 3-0 at home to Yokohama Marinos and 4-2 in the derby against Jubilo Iwata, after leading twice. New boy Salvatore Schillaci scored the last two for Iwata.

Leao is now speaking of starting again from scratch, and with only five minutes left in the Suntory Series, the first-stage championship looks almost in Sanfrecce's grasp.

Kashima were delighted by Zico's return against Sanfrecce. He had been out of action due to injury since a pre-season friendly, and seemed to be saving himself for a farewell match against Flamengo on June 21. Although Zico, now 41, could not prevent defeat by Sanfrecce, he helped Antlers to a 2-1 win over Grampus on the following Wednesday.

Zico's replacement for the Nicos Series (the J.League's second stage, starting August 10) is 24-year-old Leonardo, who visited Japan with Sao Paulo in January for the Toyota Cup. Leonard will join the club after the World Cup, and Antlers are said to have paid Valencia around $3 million. Like Zico (below), Leonardo is a Flamengo old boy.

A date to forget

EVERYTHING looked rosy as Japan approached the J.League's first anniversary.

Tickets were still as hard to get as ever, Tadoa Murata, head of Japan's 2002 World Cup campaign, was in the running for election to FIFA's Asian vice-presidency, and fans were looking forward to the arrival of France and Argentina, complete with Diego Maradona and Claudio Caniggia, for the Kirin Cup.

But the house came tumbling down with a double blow on Friday the 13th. Murata was bottom of the poll in Kuala Lumpur, with the FIFA post going to arch-rival Mong Joon Chung, head of South Korea's World Cup campaign.

On the other side of the world, Argentina withdrew from the Kirin Cup when the Japanese government refused Maradona an entry visa, on account of his arrest for drugs.

The vote in Kuala Lumpur showed that the Japanese still have a lot of diplomatic work to do, and will not be given unqualified leadership of Asian football. After a confusing recount, Chung had 11 votes, Sheikh Ahmed Fahad Al Ahmed Al Sabah of Kuwait 10, Muhammad Hammam al-Abdullah of Qatar eight, and Murata two.

If little could be done about the Asian vote this time, Japan's football organisers still had every reason to be angry with their government about the self-inflicted wound — Maradona's involvement was doubly unfortunate, because the Argentine Federation have been very friendly to Japanese football.

Maradona sounded conciliatory. "Each country has its own laws," he was quoted as saying. "While I don't approve of that Japanese law, we all must respect it."

The most lasting consequence of the affair is to put the lid on rumours that Maradona will play in the J.League.

Nacional team manager Falcao, given the difficult job of preparing a team during a busy season, cannot have been too sad at Argentina's withdrawal.

He had taken the brave step of selecting a young, very different squad from the one built by his predecessor, Hans Ooft. Add a spate of injuries, and the recipe spelled confusion.

With a week to go, the Japan team looked interesting, but nowhere near ready to tackle the likes of Argentina on their way to the United States.

Australia agreed to stand in for Argentina, and France did not back out, so the Kirin Cup was ready to go ahead on schedule. But it did not look quite the party originally planned.

J.LEAGUE SUNTORY SERIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Kitazawa 22). **Att:** 11,716.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Betinho 50)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Alcindo 24, 46, Hasegawa 63). **Att:** 14,861.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maezono 73)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0. **Att:** 14,326.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Miura 98). **Att:** 52,028.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 3 (Hasek 59,64, Yanagimoto 76)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 23,144.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Toninho 17,80) **Att:** 19,303.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Bismarck 44, Takeda 50, Abe 52)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 0. **Att:** 10,575.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Goto 4)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 49,028.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Ordenewitz 67, Igarashi 104)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maezono 52). **Att:** 9,734.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 3 (Yanagimoto 9, Hasek 14, 33)
GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Protasov 62, 71, Karashima 86). **Att:** 15,129.
Sanfrecce won 5-4 on pens

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Nagashima 48, Sawanobori 77)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Sato 22). **Att:** 17,789.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Medina Bello 26)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Almir 72, 74). **Att:** 13,472.

SATURDAY APRIL 30

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Oenoki 83). **Att:** 15,540.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Ordenewitz 72, Jo 87). **Att:** 9,393.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Alcindo 25, 99)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Miura 15). **Att:** 15,061.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Masanori Suzuki 51, Schillaci 87 pen)
VERDY KAWASAKI 0. **Att:** 14,906.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Edu 19 pen)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Hasek 59, Takagi 76). **Att:** 15,959.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Protasov 36, 38, Isogai 59)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 36,280.

WEDNESDAY MAY 4TH

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Hasek 89)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 21,077.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maezono 62, Watanabe 87). **Att:** 15,206.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Toninho 62, 63, Hasegawa 71)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Santos 4, Alcindo 53, 89). **Att:** 52,218.
Antlers won 4-3 on pens

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Aleinikov 33, Yamaguchi 55, Matsunami 80)
JUBILO IWATA 0. **Att:** 12,568.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Ordenewitz 31 pen)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2 (Edson 52, Noguchi 86). **Att:** 9,826.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Ihara 78)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Miura 86, 88). **Att:** 13,343.

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Elivelton 61). **Att:** 52,440.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 50)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Ordenewitz 56, 63 pen). **Att:** 15,843.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3 (Amarilla 14, 86, Valber 80)
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Flavio 60 pen, Aleinikov 63). **Att:** 13,904.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Paus 26, Vanenberg 75)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0. **Att:** 14,478.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Hasebe 10, Miura 22)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 0. **Att:**10,595.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Mirandinha 89)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Cerny 2). **Att:** 14,785.
Bellmare won 5-4 on pens

SATURDAY, MAY 14

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Miura 94). **Att:** 52,228.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Valber 13)
JUBILO IWATA 2 (Paus 3, Vanenburg 58). **Att:** 15,502.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Noh 37, 58)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 0. **Att:** 35,108.

GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Karashima 55)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Rummenigge 65 pen, Mizuchi 84). **Att:** 37,892.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Elivelton 17, Moriyama 80)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Noguchi 76). **Att:** 11,488.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Diaz 24, 73, Medina Bello 56). **Att:** 15,502.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

JUBILO IWATA 4 (Vanenburg 20, Fujita 58, Schillaci 72, 86)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Ronaldo 5, Nagashima 43). **Att:** 14,756.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Diaz 38)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2 (Ordenewitz 25, Echigo 58). **Att:** 25,488.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Karashima 39 og)
GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Matsunami 89, Nakamura 90). **Att:** 14,321.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Santos 73, Alcindo 77)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Moriyama 14). **Att:** 15,578.

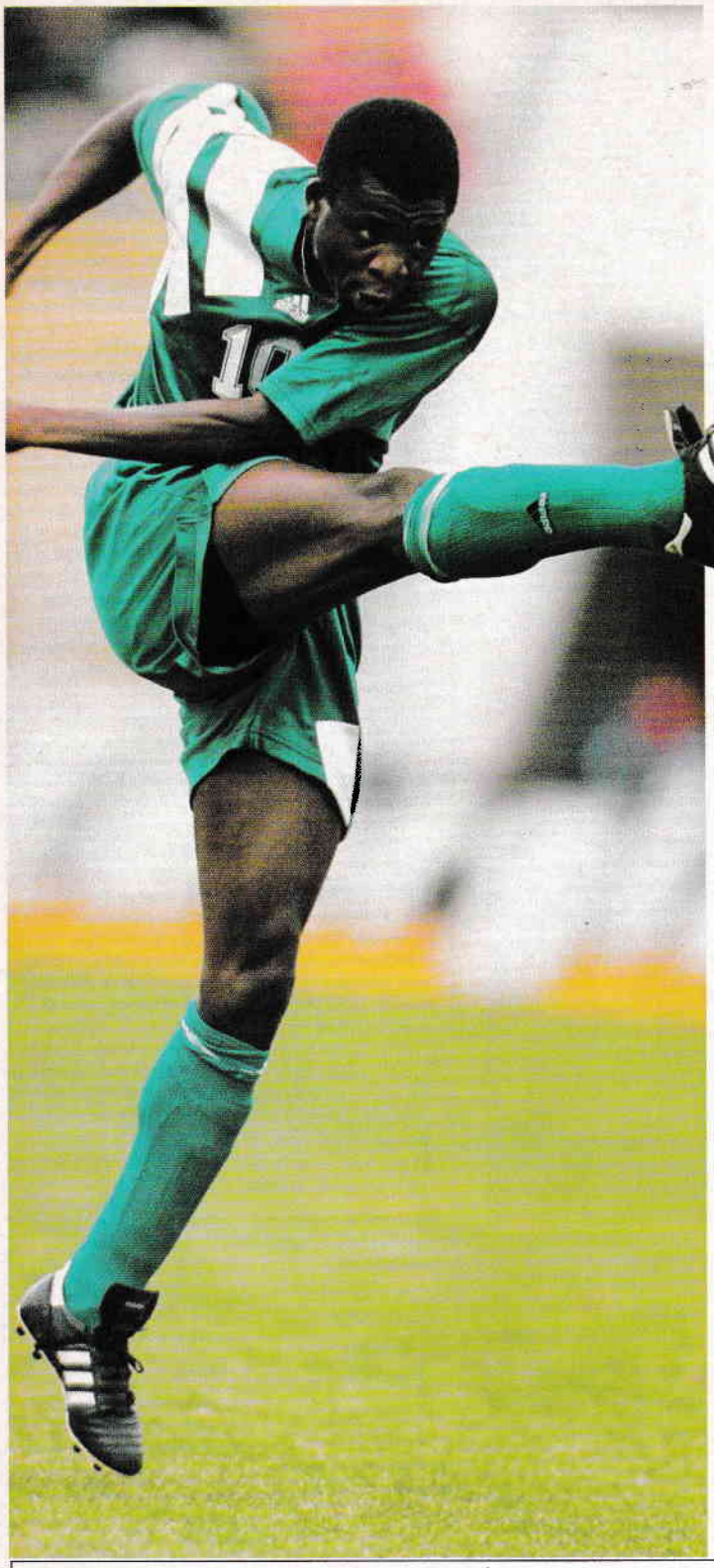
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 3 (Sato 32, Asano 54, Nobuyasu Ikeda 66)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 48,466.

J.LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	17	14	3	35	19
Shimizu S Pulse	17	12	5	31	20
Yokohama Flugels	17	11	6	28	19
Kashima Antlers	17	11	6	29	27
Verdy Kawasaki	17	10	7	31	18
JEF UNited Ichihara	17	9	8	28	31
Jubilo Iwata	17	8	9	21	23
Gamba Osaka	17	6	11	29	33
Nagoya Grampus	17	6	11	18	25
Belimare Hiratsuka	17	6	11	23	39
Yokohama Marinos	17	5	12	21	27
Urawa Red Diamonds	17	4	13	19	32

TOP SCORERS

1 ..... Frank **ORDENEWITZ** (JEF) 13
2 ..... **ALCINDO** (Antlers) 12
3 ..... Kazuyoshi **MIURA** (Verdy) 11
TONINHO (S Pulse) 11
Ivan **HASEK** (Sanfrecce) 11
6 ..... Ramon **DIAZ** (Marinos) 10
AMARILLA (Flugels) 10



ARAB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Esperance ALL

THE venue and great attendances helped hosts Esperance Tunis to win the Nissan Arab Club Championship in emphatic style.

Esperance overwhelmed their counterparts from the first, scoring 18 goals without reply in their five games, thanks to their exciting attacking duo of Zambian international Kenneth Malitoli (left) and Tunisia's Tarek Thabet.

Wadad Tlemcen of Algeria topped Group 2 with full points after three narrow wins, then were beaten 3-2 in the semi-final by Al Muharraq of Bahrain.

Esperance outclassed Al Qadsia 5-0 in the other tie, and in the final they repeated their victory over Al Muharraq, this time 3-0 before 45,000.

1994 ARAB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

Esperance Tunis (Tun) v Al Muharraq (Bah)	2-0
Al Hussein (Jor) v Ai Hilal (Sud)	1-0
Al Muharraq v Al Hilal	1-0
Esperance v Al Hussein	2-0
Esperance v Al Hilal	6-0
Al Muharraq v Al Hussein	4-2

Group 2

Wadad Tlemcen (Alg) v Al Qods (Pal)	3-2
Al Qadsia (Kuw) v Al Ittifaq (SA)	1-0
Al Qadsia v Al Qods	3-0
Wadad Tlemcen v Al Ittifaq	2-1

SAUDI ARABIA

Souza's settler

AL RIYADH surprised the local football scene by winning the Prince (former King's) Cup, for the first time.

The club, in the shadows of their illustrious capital rivals, Al Hilal, Al Nash and Al Shabab, have only one international, and took advantage of their national team's progress to the World Cup finals, leading to the absence of all international players from various local competitions, to launch a terrific campaign.

Al Riyadh beat Al Raed 2-0, Al Ittihad of Jeddah away 1-0, and Al Nasr 2-0, before winning the trophy against defending holders, Al Shabab.

Brazilian midfielder Claudio Souza scored the only goal, in extra time.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sharjah win in close finish

SHARJAH won the title for the third time in their history, thanks mainly to their international experience.

Al Ain (last season's champions) were level with Sharjah at the end of the title race, recording 29 points out of possible 36. Local rules meant a play-off, which ended in a 1-0 victory for Sharjah. Midfielder Ismail Mohamed scored two minutes after the interval.

The top two were managed by Brazilians: Carbone, former coach of Palmeiras, at Sharjah, and Amarildo, winner as a player at the 1962 World Cup held in Chile, at Al Ain.

The top scorer was Sharjah's Abdulaziz Mohamed, with 20 goals out of 34 scored by his side.

UAE — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sharjah	18	12	5	1	34	11	29
Al Ain	18	12	5	1	31	10	29
Al Nasr	18	9	5	4	25	20	23
Al Wasl	18	7	7	4	28	16	21
Al Ahly	18	7	5	6	28	18	19
Al Wahda	18	4	7	7	13	21	15
Al Shabab	18	3	7	8	21	33	13
Al Jazira	18	4	3	11	21	36	11
Al Shaab	18	3	5	10	18	34	11
Bani Yas	18	3	3	12	15	35	9

MOHAMED CHBARO

ASIAN FOOTBALL

Official Sponsors – Supporting Asian

the way

Wadad Tlemcen v Al Qadsia 2-1
Al Ittifaq v Al Qods 5-1

Semi-finals
Al Moharraq v Wadad Tlemcen 3-2
Esperance v Al Qadsia 5-0

Final
Esperance v Al Moharraq 3-0

Previous winners
1981 ..... Al Shourta (Iraq)
1984 ..... Al Ittifaq (Saudi Arabia)
1985 ..... Al Rashid (Iraq)
1986 ..... Al Rashid (Iraq)
1987 ..... Al Rashid (Iraq)
1988 ..... Al Ittifaq (Saudi Arabia)
1992 ..... Wydad Casablanca (Morocco)
1993 ..... Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia)

INDIA

Easy as AKC

THE Abahani Krira Chakra team from Bangladesh won the Charms Cup tournament by beating India's Mohemmedan Sporting Club 2-0 in the final.

The invitation event, organised by the Indian Sports Journalists Federation, involved six other clubs — East Bengal, Titanium, FCI, MSC Dhaka, IFA and Mahindra.

Abahani's Mizan scored six of his team's 10 goals in their five games.

G. C. DAS

AUSTRALIA

Bernal penalty makes the difference

A PENALTY by former Ipswich Town defender Andrew Bernal, in the third minute of injury time, enabled Sydney Olympic to snatch the sixth and last place for this season's Australian League Championship finals.

Bernal's shot gave Olympic (now coached by one-time Blackpool and Torquay midfielder Tommy Sermanni) a 1-0 win over Melbourne Brunswick United and thwarted Morwell Falcons, 4-3 winners against Melbourne Knights on the same afternoon. United had to make do with seventh place.

The Knights, South Melbourne, Sydney United, Marconi and Adelaide City already were assured of qualifying for the play-offs.

Holders Marconi entered this stage of the season immediately after a 2-0 defeat by Parramatta Eagles in the Challenge Cup — which pits the League champions against the League Cup winners.

Two first-half goals by Geoff Gunning meant that the Eagles ended the season with two of the three major trophies in their possession.

Immediately after the game, however, 18 of the squad backed a motion of no confidence in coach Rale Rasic. The club finished only 10th in the League — the competition that matters most.

AUSTRALIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melbourne Knights	26	16	5	5	59	24	53
South Melbourne	26	13	8	5	39	20	47
Sydney Utd	26	13	7	6	31	29	46
Marconi	26	11	9	6	52	33	42
Adelaide City	26	11	8	7	48	27	41
Sydney Olympic	26	11	8	7	40	37	41
Morwell Falcons	26	11	7	8	31	30	40
Brisbane Utd	26	10	6	10	28	26	36
West Adelaide	26	10	5	11	41	34	35
Parramatta Eagles	26	8	9	9	27	29	33
Wollongong City	26	6	9	11	24	33	27
Newcastle Breakers	26	5	8	13	30	47	23
Melbourne BU	26	5	4	17	22	57	19
Heidelberg Utd	26	3	5	18	19	67	14

PAUL MOON

NEW ZEALAND

Napier City back on the title trail

THE Winfield Superclub Championship's regional tables are taking shape, with last year's double winners, Napier City, handily placed.

Three will qualify for the national round from the first phase Central section, and Napier's 5-1 win at Miramar probably will be remembered as a turning point, although they were only fourth after the first seven games.

Whitakere City and North Shore United, second and third respectively in 1993, appear set for extended involvement this year, too.

They opened up a gap at the top in the North section, and already the most intriguing aspect of the race concerns the last qualifying berth.

The progress of Mount Albert, now they have signed Sean Fallon - recently released by Liverpool, will be watched with particular interest.

Waikato United, fourth in the country last year, already look out of contention.

Rangers, Roslyn, Wakari and Christchurch Technical dominated in the South a year ago, but Woolston are now contesting one of the two national round places.

NEW ZEALAND

North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Shore Utd	7	5	2	0	17	6	17
Waitakere City	7	4	3	0	19	6	15
Papatoetoe	7	3	1	3	12	12	10
Manurewa	7	3	1	3	14	18	10
Mt Wellington	7	2	2	3	8	9	8
Mt Albert	7	2	2	3	10	12	8
Central	7	2	2	3	10	14	8
Oratia	7	2	2	3	12	18	8
Ellerslie	7	2	1	4	12	16	7
Waikato Utd	7	1	2	4	14	17	5
Central							
Olympic	7	5	2	0	17	4	17
Miramar Rangers	7	4	1	2	20	11	13
Wellington Utd	7	4	1	2	11	8	13
Napier City	7	3	2	2	16	11	11
Petone	7	3	1	3	12	11	10
Nelson	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Wanganui Athletic	7	2	1	4	13	14	7
Lower Hutt City	7	2	1	4	10	16	7
Manawatu	7	2	1	4	14	26	7
New Plymouth	7	1	2	4	9	18	5
South							
Rangers	7	6	0	1	16	3	18
Roslyn Wakari	6	5	0	1	18	3	15
Christchurch Tech	6	4	1	1	15	6	13
Woolston	6	4	1	1	10	8	13
Dunedin Tech	6	3	0	3	6	8	9
Halswell	7	2	2	3	10	10	8
Christchurch Utd	7	2	1	4	7	16	7
Green Island	6	1	1	4	4	15	4
Cashmere Wand	7	1	0	6	4	15	3
Burnside	6	0	2	4	6	12	2

PAUL MOON

BAHRAIN

East best

EAST RIFFA lifted the Mumtaz Division Championship in Bahrain for the fist time in history, on goal difference, after a draw with defending champions Muhrraq.

At the start of the final round of matches, East Riffa, Al Ahli and Muharraq all had a chance of lifting the title, Al Ahli boosted their chances with a 5-0 win over relegated Al Malkiya, but a point was all East Riffa needed.

At the other end, Jidhafs stayed in the top flight after a play-off victory over Isa Town, who had finished second in the six-team play-off league. Budaiya secured an automatic place after a victory over Al Hala in their final match.

● THE AMIRI CUP was won by Al Wehda, with a 2-0 defeat of favourites West Riffa. The 18-year-old Fadhel Khalife and the League's leading scorer, Bader Swar, got the goals.

BAHRAIN — *Mumtaz Division*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
East Riffa	18	10	5	3	29	14	25
Al Ahli	18	8	9	1	25	13	25
Muharraq	18	7	9	2	24	12	23
Al Wehda	18	9	3	6	35	17	21
Bahrain	18	7	6	5	25	21	20
West Riffa	18	6	6	6	20	17	18
Manama	18	6	4	8	21	31	16
Al Qadisiya	18	4	6	8	20	31	14
Jidhafs	18	2	6	10	6	29	10
Al Malkiya	18	1	6	11	11	31	8

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LIBERTADORES CUP

Big guns under fire

DESPITE the unpopular formula which has only five clubs of 20 being knocked out in a 60-match first round, this year's Libertadores Cup nevertheless lost some big clubs early on — Cerro Porteno (Paraguay), Boca Juniors (Argentina), Alianza (Peru) and Nacional (Uruguay) as well as Venezuela's Maritimo.

In group one the Colombian clubs dominated. Group two (Argentina-Brazil) was the toughest and Boca Juniors bit the dust in the round-robin play. In the close group three, with only two points separating top and bottom after six games, Ecuador's teams took the top two places ahead of Peru's. Group four provided the big surprise as the Chilean clubs took the top two places, with Colo Colo dominating and clinching a second-round place while Uruguay's main club, Nacional, finished bottom.

In group five the Bolivians dominated the unfancied Venezuelans, yet the surprise result of the round was Minerven's 5-0 win over Bolivia's The Strongest. The latter won the return match 7-1, but Minerven still went through in third place and then caused a second-round surprise by ousting Ecuador's champions, Emelec.

Minerven became the first Venezuelan team to reach the quarter-finals, while Chilean champions Colo Colo lost to Colombia's Atletico Junior in one of three penalty shoot-outs.

The draw for the quarter-finals, due to be played after the World Cup is: Olimpia (Paraguay) v Bolivar (Bolivia), Independiente Medellin v At. Junior (both Colombia), Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) v Minerven (Venezuela), Union Espanola (Chile) v winner Sao Paulo-Palmeiras (both Brazil). (Ties to be played July 27 & August 3).

A linesman was felled by a stone and a fan ran on to the field with a revolver to attack the referee in the game between Independiente and Peru's Universitario.

The goals-per-game average so far is 2.32 and leading individual scorer is Venezuela's Stalin Rivas (Minerven) — who owes his name to the fact that his father was a staunch Communist — with seven goals.

URUGUAY

Low interest

IN AN effort to increase interest, Uruguayan soccer copies the Argentinian system of playing two separate tournaments of one round each this season . . . but with an important difference. While in Argentina there is no overall champion, the winners of the opening and closing championships in Uruguay will play each other for the title unless the same club wins both.

The start was less than promising. Gates were still low, an average of only just over two goals per game so far, and 28 players were sent off in the first 18 games.

Defensor and Nacional, the two clubs in the Libertadores Cup, are joint unbeaten leaders, newly-promoted Basanez are a point behind with a game in hand, while champions Penarol were halfway down the table after four games.

BRAZIL

A title despite a tragedy

VASCO DA GAMA won the Rio de Janeiro championship for the third successive time, in a competition overshadowed by the death of their 23-year-old striker, Dener, who was killed in a car crash.

Despite losing their best player, Vasco were deserved winners, with Ricardo Rocha in majestic form in the middle of their defence and forward Valdir improving with every game.

Eight members of the team were products of Vasco's youth divisions.

The competition was decided in the last game of a four-team mini-league for which Vasco, Fluminense, Flamengo and Botafogo qualified. Vasco began with two points for having the most points overall in the first two stages, while Fluminense took one point for winning their group.

Flamengo fans claimed this was unfair, though in reality it was Vasco who had grounds for complaint — they finished the first stage unbeaten, with a five-point lead over Flamengo.

At the start of the final match, Vasco and Fluminense both needed a win for the title. A draw would have made Flamengo champions.

In reality, a draw was never on the cards. Both teams wanted to avoid allowing arch-rivals Flamengo to get their hands on the trophy.

Vasco dominated despite missing a penalty in the first minute. They scoring in the sixth through Jardel, a tall, lumbering striker who had been jeered off the pitch by Vasco fans when substituted after 30 minutes of the previous game against Botafogo.

Jardel scored again early in the second half, and that was that.

Fluminense left-back Branco, a likely World Cup starter, looked slow and overweight through the tournament.

He was given a mark of one out of 10 by one newspaper for his performance in the final game and not even his hallmark — a blistering free-kick — could redeem him.

The general level of the competition was far higher than last year, thanks mainly to Vasco's signing of Rocha and Dener. Once Vasco had taken the initiative with their big-name deals, the other cubs were forced to follow suit.

The Sao Paulo championship, which — remarkably for Brazil — was decided on a straightforward league basis, was deservedly won by Palmeiras and their star-studded team. They clinched the title in their penultimate game with a 1-0 win over Santo Andre. The goal was scored by Colombian international Fredy Rincon, who later admitted he would not return to Brazil after the World Cup because he could not stand the pressure exerted by the fans.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

ARGENTINA

Striking changes

SOCCER in Argentina is seeking an influx of overseas strikers to get some punch into goal-shy attacks.

Independiente bought former Colombian international winger Albeiro Usuriaga from Colombian club America Cali, San Lorenzo took Brazil's Silas who had been playing in Europe, and Boca Juniors paid £870,000 for former Colombian international John Trellez from Nacional and £120,000 for the loan of former Chilean international Ivo Basay from Mexico's Necaxa for 15 games, to name just a few of the recent leading imports.

Altogether there are 33 foreign strikers at the 20 top division clubs — 14 Uruguayans — and Boca Juniors have players of six nationalities in their squad, Sergio Martinez, Tejera and Ruben Da Silva (Uruguay), Trellez (Colombia), Noriega (Ecuador), Neffa and Cabanas (Paraguay), Basay (Chile) and Argentinians. Opening championship winners River Plate started disastrously by losing their first three games despite the addition of Uruguayan international striker Cedres to an otherwise unchanged team.

They picked up, unbeaten in the next five games (including a 2-0 win against eternal rivals Boca Juniors), to leave them three points from the top. On the way they dropped their World Cup goalkeeper, Sergio Goycochea, for making some uncharacteristic mistakes.

Small clubs have been making the early running in this tournament — so much so that nobody won the pools for three weeks running. Argentinian pools only pay out for getting a list of 13 results correct.

After eight of 19 games in this short tournament in which the lead has frequently changed, Independiente and modest Platense share a one-point lead.

MEXICO

Hot Tecos

FOR once form held true in the Mexican First Division and the team which finished the regular season on top — Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara — also won the title in the playoffs.

The "Tecos", as they are called, had never won the title before nor even reached the final. Their final rivals, Santos Laguna, had only been in the First Division since season 1988-9.

UAG won the two-legged final in extra time. Each team won a close home leg 1-0 while Brazilian Omar Donizette scored the winner five minutes into extra time in Guadalajara.

In the quarter-finals, America beat Cruz Azul 3-2 on aggregate, Santos was against Atlas 3-1, Toluca beat defending champions Atlante 4-3 and UAG swept past Morelia 6-0. But while Santos eliminated Toluca 2-1 in one semi-final, UAG beat America on the away goals rule in the other — although they would still have got through as a result of their better record during the regular season. America responded by firing Argentinian coach Miguel Angel Lopez.

The new Mexican champions are coached by Victor Manuel Vucetich who took Leon to the title in season 1991-2 and they have a balanced team with three Brazilians (Donizetti, Marcelo Goncalves, Edson Zwarich) and an Argentinian (Jorge Gabrich). There were 38 foreign players in the quarter-finals.

Santos, from Torreon, are an attack-minded team who surged into contention after a mediocre start, persisting with then-criticised Chilean coach, Pedo Garcia. They boast two Argentinians (Antonio Apud and Hector Adomaitis) and two Chileans (internationals Richard Zambrano and Ruben Martinez) as well as two Mexican internationals, Ramon Ramirez and Daniel Guzman.

CHILE

No-fizz Colo

THE first stage of the Chilean Cup (Copa Chile), in which the 32 First and Second Division clubs take part in six first-round groups, was completed with the top two in each group and the four best third-placed teams advancing to the second round.

The draw, including four Second Division teams, is: Union Calera v Cobreloa, Iquique v Atacama, Antofagasta v Union Espanola (holders), AS Vial v Universidad de Chile, Huachipato v Colo Colo, Everton v Palestino, Osorno v Rangers, O'Higgins v Concepcion (to be played mid-June, First Division championship has started already).

First Division champions Colo Colo, although winning their group while fielding reserves in several games, fired their coach Vicente Cantatore (who had only taken over this season) as soon as they were eliminated from the Libertadores Cup. Another big Santiago club, Universidad Catolica, even failed to qualify despite spending a lot this year to strengthen their team, buying Argentinian internationals Alberto Acosta (striker) and Nestor Gorosito (midfield).

NEWS IN BRIEF

● IN PERU the championship was in danger of being stopped because the airline which transports teams all over the country, in exchange for advertising on shirts, threatened to stop the service as champions Universitario were advertising another firm with which they had a contract.

If Universitario insist on complying with this contract, the other 15 clubs intend to sue to recover their air fares.

Deportivo Municipal top the table with their five games won, but last year's top teams, Universitario and Alianza Lima, have games to make up which they postponed during the Libertadores Cup.

● IN COLOMBIA Atletico Nacional won the opening championship by beating Millonarios over two legs in the clash between group winners. Goalkeeper Higuita scored the vital goal, his 34th, from a penalty for which Nacional also got a bonus point to take into the final round. Millonarios take a 3/4 point and America beat Envigado in the two-legged tie between group runners-up to take half and a quarter bonus point into the final round.

● IN ECUADOR Emelec and Barcelona were on the point of getting rid of some of their costly transfers after both being knocked out in the second round of the Libertadores Cup. Champions Emelec are two points behind joint-leaders Nacional and newly-promoted Espoli in the local championship, but Barcelona re bottom and also have games in hand.

● IN PARAGUAY six leading provincial teams have been included in a new 20-team First Division, but only one (12 de Octubre) is near the top after five games with Olimpia and Cerro Cora the joint leaders. Officials are worried by low gates though — only 24,600 tickets were sold for the first 40 games.

● IN GUATEMALA Municipal won the title after sharing top place with Escuintla in the final round because they had already won the regular season championship, but both clubs go into the next CONCACAF champion clubs tournament.

● IN EL SALVADOR Luis Angel Firpo easily won the regular season championship and went into a four team final round with Alianza, FAS and Tiburones.

● IN HONDURAS Real Espana won the regular season championship. Then the top three played the next three in a knock-out round, leaving Real Espana, Motagua and Vida for the triangular final play-off.

● TRINIDAD beat Martinique 7-2 in the final of the Shell Cup in Port-of-Spain where the Haitian team asked for — and were denied — asylum even after they threatened to kill themselves. Cuban goalkeeper Noel Arguelles meanwhile asked for asylum in the Cayman Islands.

ARGENTINA
National A Division — *closing championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	8	3	5	0	8	3	11
Platense	8	4	3	1	13	9	11
Banfield	8	4	2	2	7	4	10
Belgrano Cordoba	8	3	4	1	6	5	10
Boca Juniors	8	3	3	2	12	8	9
Rosario Central	8	2	5	1	6	3	9
Racing Club	8	2	5	1	6	5	9
River Plate	8	3	2	3	12	5	8
Gimnasia	8	3	2	3	11	11	8
Argentinos Juniors	8	2	4	1	8	8	8
Deportivo Espanol	8	2	4	2	7	7	8
Estudiantes	8	3	2	3	8	9	8
Huracan	8	3	2	3	6	8	8
Gimnasia	8	2	4	2	6	9	8
San Lorenzo	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Dep. Mandiyu	8	1	4	3	7	9	6
FC Oeste	8	2	2	4	4	6	6
Newell's Old Boys	8	2	2	4	5	9	6
Lanus	8	1	3	4	9	15	5
Velez Sarsfield	8	1	3	4	9	15	5

BRAZIL
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Rio de Janeiro — *final round*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Fluminense	5	2	2	1	12	6	7
Flamengo	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Botafogo	5	0	1	4	4	15	1

Vasco da Gama and Fluminense have one bonus point for winning their groups and Vasco an extra point for getting most points in the preliminary stage.

Sao Paulo — *1st Division*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	28	18	7	3	60	21	43
Corinthians	28	15	9	4	55	31	39
Sao Paulo	27	15	7	5	59	32	37
Santos	28	11	10	7	35	32	32
America	27	11	6	10	28	26	28
Guarani	27	8	11	8	46	41	27
Norovizontino	27	7	12	8	30	32	26
Uniao Sao Joao	27	8	9	10	37	37	25
Mogi Mirim	28	8	9	11	33	41	25
Ferroviaria	28	9	6	13	31	46	24
Portuguesa	27	8	8	11	36	47	24
Ponte Preta	28	7	10	11	32	42	24
Rio Branco	28	9	7	12	33	37	25
Bragantino	28	6	11	11	24	39	23
Santo Andre	27	7	7	13	26	40	21
Ituano	29	5	9	15	21	41	19

ECUADOR
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Espoli	8	5	1	2	16	12	11
Nacional	8	5	1	2	8	9	11
Aucas	9	4	2	3	14	9	10
Dep. Quito	9	4	2	3	15	11	10
Emelec	6	4	1	1	7	4	9
Delfin	8	4	1	3	9	12	9
Liga Univ. Quito	8	3	2	3	16	10	8
Valdez	9	2	2	5	8	12	6
Univ. Portoviejo	8	1	4	3	4	9	6
Cuenca	9	2	2	5	7	15	6
Barcelona	6	2	1	3	6	11	5
Green Cross	8	2	1	5	3	11	5

COLOMBIA
Opening Championship — *final standings*

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millonarios	14	7	3	4	26	17	17
America	14	7	3	4	22	17	17
Dep. Cali	14	6	4	4	22	17	16
Once Caldas	14	6	4	4	18	17	16
At. Huila	14	4	5	5	15	19	13
Indep. Santa Fe	14	4	4	6	18	24	12
Quindio	14	3	5	6	13	18	11
Pereira	14	2	6	6	15	22	10
Group B							
Nacional	14	7	5	2	15	6	19
Envigado	14	6	6	2	15	13	18
Cucuta	14	4	6	4	16	18	14
Union Magdalena	14	5	3	6	14	13	13
Independiente Medellin	14	4	5	5	16	18	13
At. Junior	14	4	5	5	15	18	13
Tulua	14	4	3	7	15	18	11
Bucaramanga	14	3	5	6	17	21	11

Group winners play off (for one and 3/4 bonus points in final round): Nacional beat Millonarios 2-1 on aggregate; Runners-up play off (for 1/2 and 1/4 bonus point): America beat Envigado 4-3 on aggregate.

URUGUAY
First Division — *opening championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	4	3	1	0	5	1	7
Nacional	4	3	1	0	12	3	7
Basanez	3	3	0	0	6	2	6
Liverpool	5	2	2	1	4	4	6
Cerro	5	1	3	1	4	3	5
Wanderers	5	2	0	3	4	7	4
Rampla Juniors	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
River Plate	5	1	2	2	4	6	4
Central Espanol	4	1	2	1	3	7	4
Penarol	4	2	0	2	8	4	4
Progreso	5	1	1	3	6	9	3
Bella Vista	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
Danubio	5	0	2	3	1	8	2

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep. Municipal	5	5	0	0	15	4	10
Sporting Cristal	5	4	0	1	13	2	10
Melgar	6	3	3	0	8	4	9
Sport Boys	6	4	0	2	11	8	8
Ciclista Lima	6	3	1	2	12	11	7
Alianza Lima	3	2	1	0	7	3	5
Leon de Huanuco	6	2	1	13	11	12	5
San Agustin	6	2	1	3	11	12	5
Carlos Manucci	5	2	1	2	6	7	5
Universitario	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Aurich Canana	5	2	0	3	7	8	4
Dep. Sipesa	6	1	2	3	3	7	
4Alianza Atletico	6	2	0	4	5	13	4
Cienciano	5	1	0	4	5	11	2
Union Minas	6	1	0	5	6	13	2
Defensor Lima	5	0	0	5	5	14	0

PARAGUAY
First Division

After 5 games: 1) Olimpia, Cerro Cora 8 pts; 3) Cerro Porteno, 12 de Octubre, Presidente Hayes, Sportivo Luqueno 7; 7) Nacional, Sport Colombia, At. Colegiales 6; 10) Guarani, Silvio Pettirossi, Huamaita, Trinidense 5; 14) Sol de America, Libertad, River Plate 4; 17) Cerro Porteno (Este) 3; 18) 8 de Diciembre 2; 19) Boqueron 1; 20) Guarani (Oviedo) 0.

CHILE
Copa Chile (1st rnd — final group standings)

Group 1: 1) Cobreloa 15 pts; 2) Antofagasta 13; 3) Iquique 12; 4) Arica 5: 5) Cobresal 3. (Top three in second round).

Group 2: Atacama 16; 2) Union Calera 10; 3) Coquimbo 9;l 4) La Serena 9; 5) Ovalle 7. (Top two in second round).

Group 3: 1) Universidad de Chile 18; 2) Union Espanola 12; 3) Everton 11; 4) Santiago Wanderers 7; 5) San Felipe 4. (Top three in second round).

Group 4: 1) Colo Colo 14; 2) Palestino 12; 3) Universidad Catolica 10; 4) Audax Italiano 7; 5) Melipilla 5. (Top two in 2nd round).

Group 5: 1) Rangers 12; 2) Huachipato 11; 3) O'Higgins 11; 4) Santa Cruz 10; 5) Colchagua 8; 6) Nublense 7. (Top three in 2nd round).

Group 6: 1) Concepcion 14; 2) Osorno 12; 3) A.F. Vial 11; 4) Puerto Montt 11; 5) Temuco 7; 6) Lota Schwager 5. (Top three in 2nd round).

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas FC*	28	15	10	3	41	21	42
Trujillanos*	28	13	11	4	50	27	38.25
Minerven*	28	14	7	7	50	32	36.75
Tachira*	28	11	10	7	35	28	32.50
Mineros	28	11	10	7	48	30	32
Italia	28	12	7	9	41	34	31
Estudiantes	28	10	8	10	38	38	28
El Vigia	28	11	6	11	40	45	28
Maritimo	28	11	5	12	41	34	27
Llaneros	27	8	10	9	29	30	26
Univ. de los Andes	28	7	12	9	37	43	26
Monagas	28	7	11	10	33	46	25
Maracaibo	28	7	10	11	30	54	24
Zamora	27	6	11	10	23	29	23
Valencia	28	9	5	14	22	34	23
Anzoategui	28	2	7	19	29	61	11

** = includes bonus points*

GUATEMALA
First Division — final round (final)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Municipal	10	4	4	2	12
Escuintla	10	4	4	2	12
Comunicaciones	10	3	5	2	11
Aurora	10	3	5	2	11
Sacachispas	10	2	3	5	7
Suchitepequez	10	2	3	5	7

Municipal champions as they also won regular league.

EL SALVADOR
First Division — *final*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luis A. Firpo	36	21	8	7	68	33	50
Alianza	36	17	8	11	60	36	42
FAS	36	14	13	9	49	41	41
Tiburones	36	15	8	13	41	49	38
Baygon-ADET	36	12	11	13	50	52	35
Municipal Limeno	36	12	10	14	48	58	34
Atletico Marte	35	11	11	13	43	42	33
Aquila	36	10	12	14	57	63	30
Cojutepeque	35	8	12	15	42	60	28
Apaneca	36	6	13	16	30	54	25

Top four qualify for final round.

HONDURAS
First Division — *final*

1) Real Espana 40 pts; 2) Olimpia 36; 3) Victoria 28; 4) Motagua, Vida 26; 6) Platense (on goal difference) 25; 7) Real Maya 25; 8) Marathon 24; 9) Progreseno 22; 10) Petrotela 18.

COSTA RICA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	43	22	13	8	70	40	57
Saprissa	43	18	16	9	63	44	52
Heredia	43	17	18	8	53	38	52
Cartagines	43	16	18	9	52	35	50
San Carlos	43	16	16	11	50	49	48
Perez Zeledon	43	15	15	13	46	48	45
Limon	43	12	17	14	41	44	41
Puntarenas	43	13	16	14	61	57	42
San Ramon	43	14	14	15	42	43	42
Belem	43	11	13	19	34	54	35
Turrialba	43	8	14	21	45	66	30
Carmelita	43	5	12	26	33	76	22

Bosses pay bills for opponents

NEW national team coach Clive Barker began with two wins in two matches.

Both came over Southern African rivals, who have had the upper hand on South Africa in previous encounters.

The first game was played in Mmabatho, in the north of the country, against a Zimbabwean side drawn mainly from their under-23s and strengthened by Bruce Grobbelaar, Peter Ndlovu and Alexander Maseko, who plays for Mamelodi Sundowns.

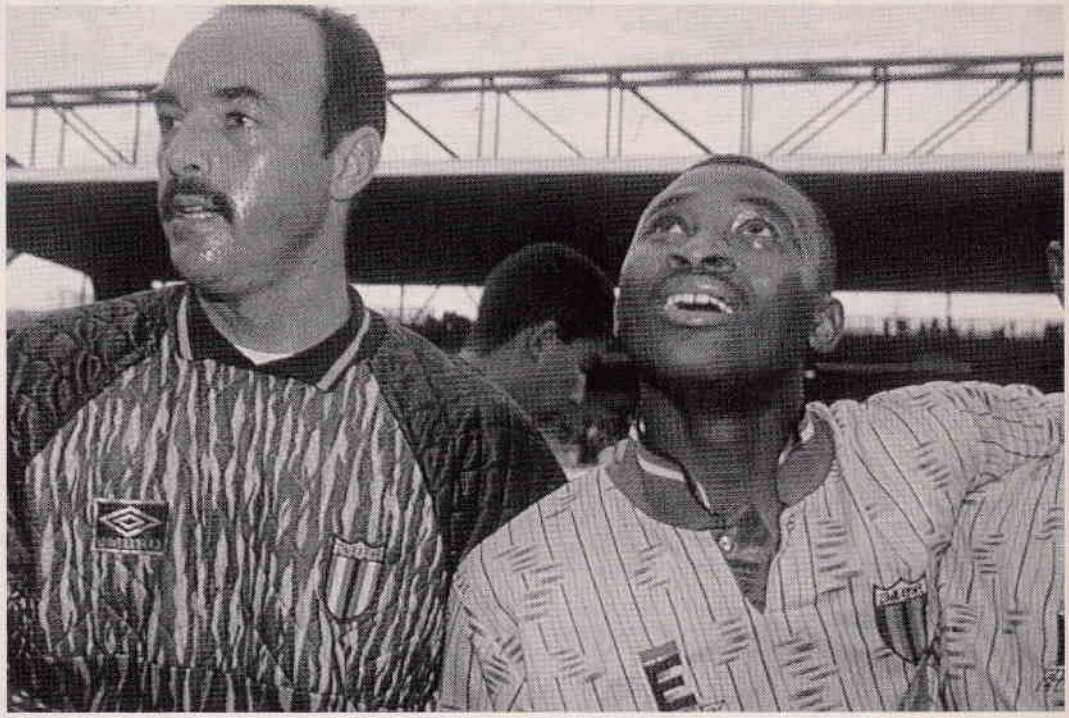
South Africa paid for both Grobbelaar and Ndlovu to fly from London after both had been involved in English games on the previous day. That must be one of the first cases of the opposition paying fares and fees for two players.

But South African football fans are a discerning lot, and had the pair not made the trip there would have been a much smaller crowd.

Zambia had six players from the team who narrowly lost to Nigeria in the African Nations Cup Final in Tunisia, but looked out of sorts against a South African team who gave their best performance in 17 internationals since their return to FIFA.

President Mandela, who had driven from Pretoria some 50km away, addressed the crowd and met the players at half-time, in an unusually long 30-minute break.

Maybe it was the magic of meeting the man that stunned Zambia, for within 120 seconds of the re-start they were two goals down.



Special guests . . . Bruce Grobbelaar and Peter Ndlovu.

Brendan Augustine tapped in from a difficult angle, and the mercurial Doctor Khumalo, playing his first full match for the country in more than a year, got a similar second.

Khumalo was later sent off, and Linos Makwaza took advantage of a defensive slip to pull one back for the visitors.

But South Africa made some tactical substitutions to hold out for a thrilling win on an historic day.

In the League, Mich d'Avray's coaching touch has put Cape Town Spurs into the early lead, just ahead of city neighbours Hellenic, coached by former England international Budgie Byrne.

D'Avray last year helped unfancied Moroka Swallows to second place, before a lucrative move to the Cape.

Orlando Pirates are also well placed to make a run on their first title since 1975, led by the veteran striker Marks Maponyane and Zairean international Mvumbi Nsunda.

Former national team coach Stanley Tshabalasa, dismissed in October 1992 after punching a journalist, is back coaching, having taken over from Barker at the bottom club, AmaZulu.

MARK GLEESON

NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO

OLYMPIC CAŞABLANCA finished the season in grand style with a 3-1 away win over Kawkab Marrakesh to take the title by 10 points.

Wydad Casablanca, winners last year, took only one point from their last two games.

US Sidi Kacem and Rachad de Bernoussi were relegated, to be replaced by Credit Agricole and ASFA.

Ahmed Bahja of Kawkab was the league's leading scorer with 16, three more than Bellagha of Olympic, and received a surprise call-up from national coach Abdellah Blinda before the World Cup.

TUNISIA

AFTER a seven-week break, caused by the country's hosting of the African Nations Cup finals, the championship is back under way with defending champions Esperance two points ahead of the chasing pack. The Tunis-based club have 31 points, two more than CS Sfaxien, who are currently in second place.

The meeting between the two clubs was postponed when Esperance had to travel to Mali for an African Champions Cup assignment.

ALGERIA

US CHAOUIA are grimly holding top spot, but their lead was cut to one point after a 2-0 defeat at NA Hussein-Dey, who are among three clubs in joint second place.

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

BEN IROHA, a recent success with his country at the African Nations Cup and with an impending trip to the World Cup, is to be sold by his Dutch club, Vitesse Arnhem.

Iroha signed at the start of the Dutch season from ASEC Abidjan, but has been unable to get a regular place.

Daniel Amokachi has won the Ebony Shoe, the award given to the best African player in the Belgian League. Brugge striker Amokachi beat Jean-Jacques Misse-Misse (Charleroi and Cameroon), Menama Lukaku (Seraing and Zaire), Jean-Claude Mukanya (Lommel and Zaire) and Liberian Kelvin Sebwe (Liege).

CAMEROON

OUTSIDERS Aigle de Nkongsamba have a four-point lead ahead of Union Douala, Canon Yaounde and Cotonsport Garoua. Defending champions Racing Bafoussam are six points off the leaders.

IVORY COAST

HENRI KASPEREZAK, the former Polish international who helped the Ivorians win bronze at the African Nations Cup finals earlier this year, has been offered an extension of his contract.

GHANA

DUTCH authorities have rejected a work permit application by Ghanaian international Bernard Aryee, so he will not be able to join AZ 67 Alkmaar.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

FERROVIARIO MAPUTO lost their 100 per cent record after 10 matches, when they were held to a 1-1 draw at Maxaquene.

The railwaymen still have a handy lead with 19 points, six more than Costa do Sol, the defending champions.

EAST AFRICA

UGANDA

TOP striker Majid Musisi, the only Ugandan export to the professional leagues of Europe, is to be sold by his French club Rennes, despite their winning the Second Division.

Musisi, in his second season with the club, made only rare appearances during the season and is now likely to move to either England, Germany or Portugal.

RESULTS . . . Feyenoord win Dutch Cup . . . Benfica thrash Sporting 6-3 in Lisbo

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WEEKEND

SPORTCLUB 3
ST POLTEN 1

VORWARTS 1
AUSTRIA WIEN 1

ADMIRA WACKER 0
RAPID WIEN 0

STURM GRAZ 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1

WACKER INNSBRUCK 4
VfB MODLING 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

WEEKEND

VfB MODLING 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 4

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
SPORTCLUB 1

ADMIRA WACKER 4
VORWARTS 0

RAPID WIEN 2
STURM GRAZ 4

ST POLTEN 0
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

WEEKEND

AUSTRIAN CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

GRAZ AK 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 1

KOTTINGBRUNN 1
FC LINZ 4

KLAGENFURT 0
ADMIRA WACKER 2

AUSTRIA WIEN 3
SPORTCLUB 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

MIDWEEK

AUSTRIA WIEN 0
ST POLTEN 1

SPORTCLUB 0
RAPID WIEN 1

VORWARTS 1
VfB MODLING 2

STURM GRAZ 1
ADMIRA WACKER 0

WACKER INNSBRUCK 1
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 6
AUSTRIA WIEN 0

ADMIRA WACKER 2
SPORTCLUB 0

STURM GRAZ 3
VORWARTS 1

RAPID WIEN 2
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

ST POLTEN 5
VfB MODLING 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 22

MIDWEEK

AUSTRIA WIEN 2
RAPID WIEN 0

VfB MODLING 3
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 2

SPORTCLUB 1
STURM GRAZ 1

WACKER INNSBRUCK 0
ADMIRA WACKER 1

WEEKEND

SPORTCLUB 1
VORWARTS 1

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 4
ST POLTEN 1

ADMIRA WACKER 4
AUSTRIA WIEN 2

STURM GRAZ 0
WACKER INNSBRUCK 0

RAPID WIEN 0
VfB MODLING 2

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WEEKEND

GENT 0
LIERSE 0. Att: 1,500.

CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 81)
STANDARD LIEGE 1 (Wilmots 25). Att: 4,000.

GENK 2 (Sarpong 79, Goots 81)
MECHELEN 0. Att: 2,000.

SERAING 3 (Edmilson 58, Wamberto 71, Foguenne 89)
BEVEREN 0. Att: 6,000.

LIEGE 0
CLUB BRUGGE 0. Att: 12,500.

WAREGEM 0
EKEREN 2 (Hofmans 30, Nsumbu 86). Att: 2,000.

ANDERLECHT 1 (Bosman 44)
LOMMEL 0. Att: 20,000.

ANTWERP 2 (Lehnoff 28, Severeyns 66)
CHARLEROI 1 (Bukran 60). Att: 15,000.

OOSTENDE 1 (Van Veirdeghem 20)
RWDM 1 (William 70). Att: 7,5000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 2 (Misse-Misse 20, 90)
WAREGEM 1 (Van der Beken 12). Att: 12,000.

STANDARD LIEGE 0
ANTWERP 0. Att: 18,000.

LIERSE 3 (Desmet 7, Huysmans 65 pen, Rekdal 68)
CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Lauwers 24, Frenay 36). Att: 6,000.

LOMMEL 1 (Machiels 52)
GENT 3 (Booy 39, 46, Viscaal 90). Att: 5,000.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Haagdoren 65, Peko 73)
OOSTENDE 0. Att: 24,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 0
SERAING 0. Att: 8,000.

MECHELEN 3 (Czerniatynski 22, 25, 33)
RWDM 1 (Williams 40 pen). Att: 7,000.

EKEREN 4 (Pierre 6, Halemai 18, Tahamata 57, Versstraeten 60)
LIEGE 1 (Sebwe 28). Att: 1,500.

BEVEREN 3 (Hulare 10, Udovic 46, 54)
GENK 1 (Sarpong 79). Att: 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

WEEKEND

GENT 1 (Viscaal 32)
ANDERLECHT 2 (Nilis 45, Emmers 62). Att: 14,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 3 (Weber 28, 64, Munteanu 45)
LOMMEL 0. Att: 2,000.

GENK 2 (Claessens 59, Schaessens 62)
CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Verheyen 8, Amokachi 35, Borkelmans 57, Staelens 6). Att: 4,000.

SERAING 1 (Lawaree 79)
EKEREN 0. Att: 4,000.

LIEGE 2 (De Sart 50, Sebwe 63)
CHARLEROI 1 (Van Meir 70). Att: 8,000.

WAREGEM 2 (Vidmar 84, 85)
STANDARD LIEGE 0. Att: 2,500.

ANTWERP 0
LIERSE 0. Att:10,000.

MECHELEN 2 (Renty 50 og, Urban 36)
OOSTENDE 0. Att: 6,000.

RWDM 0
BEVEREN 1 (Massagie 34). Att: 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 3 (Dalog 22, Malbasa 48, Brugno 81)
SERAING 1 (Teppers 6). Att: 15,000.

STANDARD LIEGE 3 (Cruz 74, Schepens 84, Wilmots 89)
LIEGE 1 (Sebwe 86). Att: 14,000.

LIERSE 1 (Huysman 19)
WAREGEM 2 (Kruzen 49, Onya 54). Att: 2,000.

LOMMEL 5 (Berghuis 30, Van Geneugden 53, 63, Peeters 60, N'gunzadi 87)
ANTWERP 0. Att: 4,000.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Bosman 43, Nilis 53)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. Att: 18,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 5 (Borkelmans 17, 59, Verheyen 39, 81, Plovie 75)
RWDM 1 (Williams 66). Att: 6,000.

EKEREN 1 (Hofmans 58)
GENK 1 (Busuttil 68). Att: 1,200.

OOSTENDE 2 (Renty 48, Kestunro 88)
GENT 2 (Booy 42, 74). Att: 7,000.

BEVEREN 1 (Udovic 19)
MECHELEN 1 (Urban 20). Att: 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 22

BELGIAN CUP — FINAL

ANDERLECHT 2 (Versavel 36, Nilis 74)
CLUB BRUGGE 0. Att: 20,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ....Josip **WEBER** (Cercle).....31
2 ....Luc **NILIS** (Anderlecht).....25
3 ....John **BOSMAN** (Anderlecht) .20
4 ....Nikola **UDOVIC** (Beveren).....19
5 ....Nebojsa **MALBASA** (Charleroi)..18

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WEEKEND

HEEREVEEN 1 (Tammer 90)
WILLEM 2 (Van Gastel 34, Meijs 59). Att: 11,500.

GA EAGLES 0
AJAX 3 (Petterson 4, 38, Litmanen 29). Att: 11,435.

NAC BREDA 2 (Van Burik 27, Van Hooijdonk 66)
VITESSE 2 (Cocu 45, Simons 79). Att: 11,000.

RKC 3 (Brands 15, Boogers 16, 41)
CAMBUUR 0. Att: 3,650.

GRONINGEN 3 (Ter Avest 37, 58, Wilson 54 pen)
MVV 2 (Faber 4 og, Scheepers 83). Att: 10,528.

FEYENOORD v PSV — *postponed*

TWENTE 1 (Hoogma 90)
UTRECHT 0. Att: 4,600

VVV 2 (Van Leenders 1, Hanssen 29)
RODA JC 2 (Van Galen 26, Luypers 82). Att: 8,270.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

MIDWEEK

NAC BREDA 3 (Van Hooydonk 8, 70 pen, Lammers 37)
VOLENDAM 1 (Stefanivic 67 pen). Att: 11,538.

RODA JC 1 (Babangida 8)
AJAX 2 (Litmanen 35, Davids 40). Att: 20,000.

RKC 0
VITESSE 0. Att: 4,500.

PSV EINDHOVEN 2 (Playfair 17, Linskens 78)
SPARTA 1 (Bubberman 42). Att: 24,350.

FEYENOORD 2 (Heus 22 pen, Blinker 27)
GRONINGEN 2 (Ter Avest 5, Van Duren 37). Att: 17,284.

CAMBUUR 0
WILLEM 1 (Van Arum 82). Att: 4,500.

VVV 1 (Van Leenders 39)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Groon 53). Att:4,000.

WEEKEND

MVV 2 (Roelofsen 33, Scheepers 74)
GA EAGLES 2 (Bosvelt 51, 90). Att: 3,000.

SPARTA 3 (Fortes 27, Bogarde 35, Jalink 50)
GRONINGEN 0. Att: 3,800.

VITESSE 2 (Gillhaus 8, Simons 72)
VOLENDAM 1 (Stefanovic 80 pen). Att: 6,034.

RODA JC 1 (Hofstede 33)
TWENTE 4 (Mols 28, Boerebach 44, Vurens 56, Arts 88). Att: 6,500.

AJAX 2 (Rijkaard 68, Petterson 72)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Verbeek 88). Att: 42,000.

RKC 1 (Schreuder 39)
WILLEM 0. Att: 3,600.

PSV EINDHOVEN 3 (Numan 3, 59, Popescu 32)
NAC BREDA 1 (Van Hooydonck 74). Att: 28,450.

UTRECHT 0
FEYENOORD 0. Att: 10,500.

CAMBUUR 2 (Konterman 8 pen, Brain 64)
VVV 1 (Elzinga 74 og). Att: 3,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

AJAX 0
GRONINGEN 2 (Huizing 28, Hamming 62). Att: 17,500.

FEYENOORD 2 (De Wolf 60, 85)
PSV EINDHOVEN 1 (Hoekstra 23). Att:26,860.

WEEKEND

WILLEM 2 (Abbddellaoui 39, Arum 57)
AJAX 1 (Seedorf 82). Att: 12,000.

HEERENVEEN 3 (Regtop 47, Tammer 55, Hellinga 90)
MVV 1 (Roelofsen 67). Att: 10,800.

GA EAGLES 1 (Bosvelt 32)
SPARTA 5 (Bogarde 7, 87, Van Der Laan 21, 75, Fortes 80). Att: 6,850.

NAC BREDA 2 (Lammers 15, Van Hooydonck 81)
UTRECHT 2 (Bijl13, De Krujff 53). Att: 10,486.

GRONINGEN 0
VITESSE 0. Att: 11,260.

VOLENDAM 3 (Wasiman 67, Stefanovic 68, Smeets 85)
PSV EINDHOVEN 2 (Wouters 11, Van Mol 57). Att: 3,000.

FEYENOORD 2 (Witschge 20, 80)
RODA 1 (Hofstede 83). Att: 19,950.

VVV 0
RKC 2 (Boogers 21, Valk 23). Att: 6,500.

TWENTE 4 (Mols 30, Pahlplatz 42, Hoogma 53, Bruggink 73)
CAMBUUR 1 (Elzinga 49). Att: 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

WEEKEND

DUTCH CUP — FINAL

FEYENOORD 2 (Heus 7 pen, Van Loen 80)
NEC NIJMEGEN 1 (Dekker 90). Att: 43,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1.....Jari **LITMANEN** (Ajax) 26
2.....Pierre **VAN HOOYDONCK** (NAC)..25
3.....Hans **GILLHAUS** (Vitesse).....22
4.....John **LAMMERS** (NAC Breda) 19
5.....Richard **ROELOFSEN** (MVV)...16

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 3 (Ivan 63, Calcoa 80, Voinov 89)
AMADORA 3 (M. Georges 7, Ricardo 12, 59). Att: 5,550.

BEIRA-MAR 1 (Punisic 90)
BELENENSES 1 (Mauro Airez 65). Att: 10,000.

BOAVISTA 3 (Taveres 9, Sanchez 69, Nelo 89)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. Att: 2,500.

MARITIMO 2 (Humberto 24, Heitor 60 pen)
SALGUEIROS 1 (S. Pinto 75). Att: 11,300.

GUIMARAES 2 (Pedro 44, Paulo Bento 49 pen)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Lim 90). Att: 12,000.

FAMALICAO 4 (Morgudo 44 pen, Viera 58, 71, Rebeio 78)
PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Jose Maria 20). Att: 8,850.

FARENSE 0
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

MIDWEEK

BENFICA 2 (Schwarz 10, Kulkov 18 pen)
SETUBAL 0. Att: 40,000.

WEEKEND

GUIMARAES 2 (Agostino 45, Dane 47)
FARENSE 2 (Hugo 3, Stevanovic 34). Att: 4,000.

GIL VICENTE 0
BOAVISTA 0. Att: 2,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA v FC PORTO — *postponed*

PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Paulo Sergio 77)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 3,000.

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Calcoa 26 og, Capucho 28, Balakov 51)
ESTORIL 1 (Christian 61). Att: 30,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Abilio 2, Sapinto 86)
FAMALICAO 2 (Barnjak 1, Medane 61). Att: 2,500.

AMADORA 2 (Fernando 34 pen, Ricardo 65)
BEIRA-MAR 2 (Miguel Bruno 70, Eliseu 79). Att: 2,000.

SETUBAL 4 (Chiquinho Conde 6, Yekini 83, 87, Chinquinho Carlos 89)
MARITIMO 1 (Vaco 10). Att: 6,000.

BELENENSES 0
BENFICA 2 (Mozer 11, Ailton 46). Att: 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

FC PORTO 2 (Drulovic 52, Vinha 86)
SPORTING LISBON 0. Att: 40,000.

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 0
UNIAO MADEIRA 2 (Jokanovic 48 pen, Lepi 59). Att: 1,000.

BEIRA-MAR 0
SPORTING LISBON 4 (Cadette 14, Yordanov 36, Dinis 75 og, Paolo Sousa 80). Att: 7,000.

FC PORTO 3 (Folha 3, 58, Drulovic 88)
GIL VICENTE 0. Att: 20,000.

BENFICA 1 (Isaias 12)
AMADORA 1 (Mario Jorge 69). Att: 10,000.

BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 52)
GUIMARAES 1 (Matias 67). Att: 15,000.

MARITIMO 1 (Jose Pedros 56)
BELENENSES 2 (Victor Vieira 55, Mauro Airez 79). Att: 10,350.

FAMALICAO 1 (Vieira 64)
SETUBAL 1 (Chiquinho Conde 85). Att: 11,800.

SPORTING BRAGA 4 (Karoglan 12, 40, King 37, Fernando Pires 75)
SALGUEIROS 3 (Sa Pinto 43, Miguel Simao 48, Tulipa 49). Att: 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

MIDWEEK

UNIAO MADEIRA 0
FC PORTO 2 (Drulovic 42, Secretario 81). Att: 15,000.

WEEKEND

BOAVISTA 0
FARENSE 1 (Rui Bento 85). Att: 5,000.

GUIMARAES 0
FC PORTO 0. Att: 15,000.

GIL VICENTE 2 (Lim 14, Mangonga 58)
ESTORIL 0. Att: 8,200.

UNIAO MADEIRA 2 (Tico 8, Manu 66)
BEIRA-MAR 0. Att: 9,430.

SPORTING LISBON 3 (Cadete 7, Figo 36, Balakov 81 pen)
BENFICA 6 (Joao Pinto 31, 38, 44, Isaias 47, 56, Helder 74). Att:70,000.

SALGUEIROS 2 (Tulipa 3, Luis Manuel 60)
PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Paulo Sergio 65). Att: 11,150.

AMADORA 1 (Birame 44)
MARITIMO 1 (Gustavo 67). Att: 7,000.

SETUBAL 1 (Chiquinho Conde 72)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. Att: 8,000.

BELENENSES 4 (Mauro Airez 65, 80, Edmilson 83, Goncalves 89 pen)
FAMALICAO 0. Att: 6,000.

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 24

MIDWEEK

SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 62)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Gren 14). Att: 9,500.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Bregy 8)
AARAU 2 (Kucharski 36, Romano 80). Att: 4,000.

LUCERNE 1 (Tuce 63)
LUGANO 3 (Galvao 4, Pelosi 43, 69). Att: 4,700.

SION 5 (L. Carlos 21, Rey 53, Assis 60, 64, 89 pen)
LAUSANNE 0. Att: 11,000.

WEEKEND

LUGANO 1 (Gurchuadi 50)
SERVETTE 1 (Sinval 26). Att: 4,000.

LAUSANNE 1 (La Placa 66)
YOUNG BOYS 2 (Kunz 41, Mozer 87). Att: 3,500.

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Elber 64, 83, Vega 55)
LUCERNE 0. Att: 4,300.

AARAU 2 (Kucharski 33, Paulicevic 76)
SION 1 (Fournier 36). Att: 5,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 1

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 3 (Neuville 48, Grassi 77, 89)
LAUSANNE 0. Att: 8,000.

LUCERNE 1 (Pavlicevic 76)
AARAU 3 (Tuce 14, Elomann 75, Ratinho 70 og). Att: 5,750.

LUGANO 0
YOUNG BOYS 4 (Sutter 16, Kunz 33, 60, Bregy 65). Att: 3,000.

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Yakin 14, Elber 62, Willens 73)
SION 1 (Bovin 54). Att: 10,100.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 8

MIDWEEK

YOUNG BOYS 0
GRASSHOPPER 0. Att: 3,600.

SION 0
SERVETTE 0. Att: 5,500.

LAUSANNE 1 (Bulmann 73)
LUCERNE 3 (Sogbie 18, Tuce 23 pen, 43)
Att: 5,000.

AARAU 4 (Romano 21, Weiler 62, Ratignho 56 pen, 90)
LUGANO 3 (Subiat 43, Pelosi 53, Galvao 82 pen). Att: 3,900.

SWISS CUP — SEMI-FINALS

FC ZURICH 1
GRASSHOPPER 2

FC BALE 0
SCHAFFHOUSE 0
Schaffhouse won 6-5 on pens

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 86)
AARAU 0. **Att:** 7,800.

LUCERNE 0
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 5,800.

LUGANO 1 (Esposito 62)
SION 0. **Att:** 2,000.

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Elber 2, 25, 74)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 6,100.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 15

WEEKEND

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Bregy 77)
SERVETTE 4 (Neuville 35, 68, 73, Grassi 53). **Att:** 7,100.

SION 2 (Rey 31, Bonvin 32)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 5,500.

LAUSANNE 0
LUGANO 2 (Gergurchadi 21, Fink 64). **Att:** 1,200.

AARAU 1 (Romano 57)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Elber 68). **Att:** 8,100.

SWISS CUP — FINAL
GRASSHOPPER 4 (Bickel 4, Vega 35, Magnin 71, 77)
SCHAFFHOUSE 0. **Att:** 12,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 ....Giovane **ELBER** (Grasshopper)...21
2 ....Nestor **SUBIAT** (Lugano) 17
3 ....Oliver **NEUVILLE** (Servette)...16
4 ....Alexandre **REY** (Sion) 15

INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CUP UPDATE

❒ JACK ROLLIN, Editor of *Rothmans Football Yearbook*, spotted an anomaly in World Cup qualifying match information common to every publication which supplies such information, including *WORLD SOCCER*.

In the South American qualifiers last September, Venezuela defeated Ecuador 2-1. All reports gave the Ecuador scorer as Byron Tenorio . . . yet he was not mentioned among either the supplied team line-up or used substitutes as he should have been.

Thanks to FIFA official Andreas Herren, using the new FIFA World Cup BBS system to check the referee's report, we can supply the answer. The Ecuador team line-up, for all those who keep such information, should read as follows: Espinosa, B Tenorio, Capurro, Munoz (Gavica 69), Carcelen, Coronel, E Hurtado, Fernandez, Chala (Aviles 58), I Hurtado, Noriega.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

May 3 = Seoul — friendly
SOUTH KOREA 2 (Cho Jin-ho 18, Hwang Sun-hong 79)
CAMEROON 1 (Georges Mouyeme 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000.

May 3 = Miami — Miami Cup
EL SALVADOR 3 (R. Ignaio Diaz Arce 6, 29, 36)
HONDURAS 1 (Nicolas Suazo 67)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000.

May 3 = Miami — Miami Cup
PERU 0
COLOMBIA 1 (Harold Lozano 61)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000.
Peru: Miranda — Basombrio*, Reinoso, Solano, Soto, Munoz, Baroni, Palacios, Aguilar (Ubillus 30), Rodriguez, Rivera.
** Basombrio sent off, 28min.*
Colombia: Cordoba — Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Perez, Alvarez, Gomez, Lozano, Valenciano (Asprilla 46), Valderrama, De Avila.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

May 4 = Krakow — friendly
POLAND 3 (Jalocha 48, Baluszinski 80, Fedoruk 85)
HUNGARY 2 (Vincze 10, Klausz 50)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

May 4 = Cannes, France — friendly
BOLIVIA 1 (Erwin Sanchez 79)
SAUDI ARABIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 700.
Bolivia: Rojas — Pinedo, Rimba, O Sanchez, Sandy — Borja, Ramos, Melgar, Baldivieso — E Sanchez, Ramallo.
Saudi Arabia: Mohammed Al-Daeya — Abdullah Sulaiman, Mohammed Al-Khelawe, Ahmed Jameel, Mohammed Abdul Jawwad, Fouad Anwar, Khaled Musaeed, Hamza Saleh, Saeed Al-Oweiran, Sami Al-Jaber, Hamza Idrees.

May 4 = Florianopolis — friendly
BRAZIL 3 (Ronaldo 31, Zinho 42pen, Viola 84)
ICELAND 0
HT: 2-0.
Brazil: Zetti — Jorginho, Marcio Santos, Aldair, Branco, Dunga, Mazinho, Paulo Sergio, Zinho, Viola, Ronaldo.
Iceland: Birkir — Runar, Gislasson, Egillsson, Arnor, Kristian Jonsson, Bjarki, Jonsson, Sverrisson, Thordarsson, Arnar.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

May 5 = Stockholm — friendly
SWEDEN 3 (Stefan Schwarz 3, Henrik Larsson 42, Klas Ingesson 78)
NIGERIA 1 (Joseph Odegbami 75)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** P Kelly (RI)
Sweden: L Eriksson — R Nilsson, P Andersson (J Eriksson 46), Bjorklund, M Nilsson, Larsson (Blomqvist 66), Thern, Schwarz, Ingesson, Dahlin (Erlingmark 79), K Andersson (Kindvall 56).
Nigeria: Agu — Okafor, Eguavon (Semitoje 46), Iroha (West 61), Keshi, Edema, Kanu, Oliha (Odegbami 46), Ugbade, George (Emma Okocha 46), Daniels (Ojigwe 68).

THURSDAY, MAY 5

May 5 = Miami — Miami Cup
HONDURAS 2 (Nicolas Suazo 76pen, Milton Omar Nunez 87)
PERU 1 (Percy Aguilar 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.

May 5 = Miami — Miami Cup
COLOMBIA 3 (Antony De Avila 53, Harold Lozano 78, Ivan Valenciano 85)
EL SALVADOR 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000.
Colombia: Paso — Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Perez (Ortiz 57), Lozano, Alvarez, Gomez (Serna 57), Valderrama, M Asprilla, De Avila (Valenciano 57).
El Salvador: Rivera — Portillo, Carcamo, Estrada, Trigueros, Enriquez (Hernandez 85), Vasques (Batres 81), Lazo, Toro (Zapata 85), Cienfuegos, Diaz Arce.
❒ *Colombia won tournament.*

SATURDAY, MAY 7

May 7 = Fullerton, Ca — friendly
UNITED STATES 4 (Klopas 36, Reyna 41, Balboa 76, Moore 87)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,158. **Ref:** Patlak (US)
United States: Friedel — Balboa, Lalas (Lapper 46), Agoos, Armstrong — Burns, Reyna, Henderson (Kinnear 65), Jones (Michallik 83), Perez — Klopas (Moore 46th).
Estonia: Poom — Prins, Kallaste, Kaljend, Klavan — Lemsalu (Zelinski 70th), Kristal, Linnumae, Kirs — Reim, Krom.

MONDAY, MAY 9

May 9 = Athens — friendly
GREECE 0
CAMEROON 3 (Embe 26, Tataw 45, Loga 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000.
Greece: Minou (Karkamis 46) — Manolas, Karataidis, Ioannides, Hadjidis, Karapialis (Kofides 48), Machlas (Vrizas 50), Tsalouhidis, Nioplias (Tsartas 60), Tsiantakis (Marangos 48), Mitropoulos*.
**Mitropoulos sent off, 36min.*
Cameroon: Songo'o — Tataw, Agbo, Mbouh, Mfede — Loga, Kalla (Milla 72), Kana Biyik (Foe 57) — Misse Misse (Moyeme 46), Embe (Tchami 46).

TUESDAY, MAY 10

May 10 = Johannesburg — friendly
SOUTH AFRICA 2 (Augustine 46, Khumalo 47)
ZAMBIA 1 (Makwaza 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Senai (Bot)
S Africa: Crowley — Motaung, Rabede, Komphela, Seale — Tovey, Moshoeu (Maponyane 70), Khumalo, Fish — Augustine (Nyathi 79), P Masinga.
Zambia: Mwamba — Litana, Chongo, M Malitoli (Sichikolo 46), Chiyangi — Sakala, Lungu (W Nyirenda 65), Tembo (Phiri 46), Makwaza — Chilumba, Saileti.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

May 11 = Athens — friendly
CAMEROON 1 (Ekeme 7)
BOLIVIA 1 (Alvaro Pena 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 600. **Ref:** Finzinger (Aus)
Cameroon: Bell — A Kana Biyik (Loga 60), Maboang (Onana 46), Ndip, Foe — Mbouh (Ifanyi 75), Ekeme, Kalla, Agbo — Misse Misse, Tchami (Mouyeme 60).
Bolivia: Rojas — Rimba, J M Pena, Sandy, Soria — Melgar, Baldivieso (Pinedo 63), Ramos (Castillo 72), Cristaldo — Moreno (Borja 82), A Pena (Ramallo 58).

FRIDAY, MAY 13

May 13 = Athens — friendly
GREECE 0
BOLIVIA 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Wieser (Aut)
Greece: Minou (Karkamanis 46) — Machlas (Dimitriadis 46), Nioplias (Tsartas 46), Hadjidis, Karayannis, Alexiou, Kolitsidakis, Marangos (Tsalouhides 67), Alexandris (Kostis 46), Alexoudis, Tsiantakis (Kofides 46).
Bolivia: Rojas — Rimba, Sandy, Cristaldo, Melgar, Baldivieso (Pinedo 60), Moreno (Borja 82), J M Pena, Ramos (Castillo 68), A Pena, D Rojas.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

May 15 = Fullerton, Cal. — friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Klopas 64)
ARMENIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,753. **Ref:** Hall (US)
US: Meola — Balboa, Lalas, Caligiuri, Burns — Dooley (Sorber 83), Reyna, Kinnear (Henderson 87), Jones (Moore 74), Perez — Klopas.
Armenia: Armen Petrosian — Gspeyan, Tonoyan, Sarkis Hovsepian, Vardanian, Sukiason — Avetisian, Grigorian, Andranik Hovsepian (Hakop Ter Petrosian 75) — Mikhitarian, Shakhgeldian (Arthur Petrosian 71).

TUESDAY, MAY 17

May 17 = Wembley — friendly
ENGLAND 5 (Anderton 24, Beardsley 37, Platt 44pen, 55, Shearer 65)
GREECE 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 23,659. **Ref:** McCluskey (Sco)
England: Flowers — R Jones (Pearce 82), Bould, Adams, Le Saux — Richardson, Platt, Merson — Anderton (Le Tissier 62), Shearer, Beardsley (I Wright 69).
Greece: Karkamanis — Apostolakis, Karayannis, Kolitsidakis, Kalitsakis — Tsaluhidis, Hantzidis (Saravakos 46), Nioplias, Tsiantakis — Kofidis (Kostis 69), Mahlas (Mitropulos 46).

May 17 = Katowice — friendly
POLAND 3 (Juskowiak 22pen, Brzeczek 47, Moskal 89)
AUSTRIA 4 (Stoeger 5, 26, 65, Hochmaier 69)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)
Poland: Jojko (Wozniak 46) — Bak, Lapinski, Jegor — Grembocki (Gesior 65), Jalocha, Rudy, Brzeczek — Lesniak (Szubert 16; Kubik 35), Juskowiak, Kowalczyk (Moskal 46).
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Hochmaier, Streiter (Schoettel 79), Pfeffer — Feiersinger, Hutter, P Stoeger, Artner, Aigner — Polster, Pfeifenberger.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

May 18 = Gyor — friendly
HUNGARY 2 (Kereszturi 51, 75)
CROATIA 2 (Mladenovic 52, 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Pucek (Cze)
Hungary: Vegh — Lipcsei, Marton, G Meszoly — Puglits (Kuttor 69), Halmai, G Bognar (Jagodics 64), Kereszturi, Keller — J Kovacs (Hertzeg 46), Vincze.
Croatia: Ladic — Jerkan, Stimac (Pavlicic 46), Bilic, Jarni — Jankovic, Andrijasevic (Soldo 77), Prosinecki (Turkovic 46), Asanovic — Boksic, Civitanovic (Mladenovic 46).

May 18 = Santiago — friendly
CHILE 3 (Barrera 33, 80, Salas 76)
ARGENTINA 3 (Chamot 9, Balbo 69, Ruggeri 83)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 62,000. **Ref:** Diuzniewski (Uru)
Chile: Toledo — Fuentes, Margas, Ardiman, Ramirez — Guevara (Salas 67), Parraguez, Mendoza (Castaneda 46), Sierra (Reyes 83) — Carreno, Barrera.
Argentina: Islas — Chamot, Borelli, Ruggeri, Sensini — J Basualdo (Redondo 46), Mancuso (H Perez 46), Simeone, Maradona (Franco 85) — Balbo, Batistuta (Medina Bello 76).

THURSDAY, MAY 19

May 19 = Reykjavik — friendly
ICELAND 1 (T Orlygsson 54)
BOLIVIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

May 22 = Wembley — friendly
ENGLAND 0
NORWAY 0
Att: 64,327. **Ref:** M Nielsen (Den)
England: Seaman — R Jones, Bould, Adams, Le Saux — Platt, Ince (I Wright 76), Wise — Anderton (Le Tissier 76), Beardsley, Shearer.
Norway: Thorstvedt (By Rise 86) — H Berg (Haaland 46), Johnsen, Bratseth, R Nielsen — O Berg (Ingebrigtsen 67), Rekdal, J I Jakobsen, Flo — Bohinen, Fjortoft (Sorloth 46).

May 22 = Hiroshima — Kirin Cup
JAPAN 1 (Asano 6)
AUSTRALIA 1 (A Vidmar 68)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27, 350. **Ref:** Piron Unprasert (Ind)
Japan: Maekawa — Kondo, Iwamoto, Hashiratani, Ihara — Natsuka, Asano (Moriyasu 83), Sawanobori, Maezono (Hasegawa 30) — Kazu Miura, Saito (Ogura 46).
Australia: Zabica (Kalac 36) — Ivanovic, Zelic, Durakovic, T Vidmar — Tobin, Van Blerk, A Vidmar, Slater — Wade, Veart.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

May 25 = Piscataway, NJ — friendly
UNITED STATES 0
SAUDI ARABIA 0
Att: 5,576. **Ref:** Emiliano Ramirez (Hon)
US: Meola — Balboa, Lalas, Caligiuri, Bliss (Sorber 82) — Burns, Dooley, Reyna (Wegerle 72), Jones (Ramos 46) — Perez (Wynalda 46), Klopas (Stewart 46).
S Arabia: Mohammed Al Deayea — Ahmed Jamil Madani, Mohammed Abdul Jawad, Abdullah Al Dossari — Mohammed Al Khlawi (Abdullah Sulaiman 70), Talal Jabreen, Hanzah Saeed Falatah, Sami Al Jaber (Fahad Al Ghashiyan 61), Khalid Al Muwallid, Fuad Anwar Amin — Saeed Owairan (Fahad Al Bishi 59).

May 25 = Prague — friendly
CZECH REPUBLIC 5 (Kuka 20, 51, Frydek 23, Kubik 27, Postulka 81)
LITHUANIA 3 (Narbekovas 52, Nemecek pg 76, Stumbrys 85)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,407.

May 25 = Bucharest — friendly
ROMANIA 2 (Dumitrescu 22, Petrescu 49)
NIGERIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,500. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gr)
Romania: Stelea (Prunea 75) — Petrescu, Belodedici, Mihali (Prodan 72), Galca, Lupescu (Stanga 27), Popescu, Panduru, Niculescu (Chirita 60), Ivan (Moldovan 52), Dumitrescu (Papura 80).
Nigeria: Rufai — Eguavon (Agu 86), Keshi, Okafor, Iroha, Oliseh, Okocha (Adepoju 52), Siasia, Amunike, Ikpeba (Oliha 60), Babangida (George 53).

May 25 = Kiev — friendly
UKRAINE 3 (Leonenko 62, Bezhenar 65pen, Mikhailenko 82)
BYELORUSSIA 1 (Belkevich 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000.

May 25 = Guayaquil — friendly
ECUADOR 1 (Byron Tenorio 82)
ARGENTINA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Orellana (Ecu)
Ecuador: Espinoza — Coronel, Byron Tenorio, Montano, Capurro, Maximo Tenorio, Fajardo (Gavica), Garay, Carabali, Chala, Ron.
Argentina: Goycochea — Sensini, Vasquez, Ruggeri, Chamot, Redondo, Simeone, Franco, Maradona, Balbo, Caniggia.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

May 26 = Copenhagen — friendly
DENMARK 1 (Michael Laudrup 53)
SWEDEN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,689.
Denmark: Schmeichel — Helveg, Olsen, Rieper, Kjeldbjerg — Friis-Hansen (B Jensen 46), Vilfort, Steen Nielsen, M Laudrup — Povlsen (Pingel 77), B Laudrup.
Sweden: Ravelli — Kamark (M Nilsson 33), P Andersson, Bjorklund (J Eriksson 46), Ljung (Erlingmark 69) — H Larsson (Limpar 46), Rehn, Thern (Blomqvist 62), Mild — Dahlin, Brolin.

May 26 = Kobe — Kirin Cup
AUSTRALIA 0
FRANCE 1 (Cantona 42)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,743.
Australia: Kalac — Tony Vidmar (Polak 71), Tobin, Ivanovic, Durakovic, Wade (Markowski 82), Slater, Zelic, Veart, Aurelio Vidmar, Jason Van Blerk.
France: Barthez — Angloma, Blanc, Di Meco, Karembeu, Petit, Ferri, Cantona, Dugarry (Martins 73), Ginola (Pedros 73), Papin.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

May 27 = Parma — friendly
ITALY 2 (Signori 24, Casiraghi 66)
FINLAND 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Vagner (Hun)
Italy: Marchegiani — Benarrivo (Tassotti 46), Costacurta, Baresi (Minotti 46), Apolloni, Conte (Donadoni 72), Evani, D Baggio, Berti (Casiraghi 46), R Baggio (Zola 46), Signori.
Finland: Jakonen — Kinnunen, Heikkinen, Petaja, Kanerva (Hyrylainen 68), Suominen, Litmanen, Lindberg (Paavola 71), Hjelm, Aaltonen (Rami Rantanen 88), Jarvinen.

May 27 = Basel — friendly
SWITZERLAND 2 (Herr 30, Hottiger 65)
LIECHTENSTEIN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Switzerland: Lehmann — Hottiger, Herr, Geiger, Quentin — Ohrel, Bregy, Sforza, A Sutter — Subiat, Chapuisat.
Liechtenstein: Heeb — Moser — C Frick, J Ospelt (Hanselmann 46) — Ritter, Telser (Matt 78), Zech, Klaunzer, Hasler (Marxer 88), W Ospelt — M Frick.

May 27 = Utrecht — friendly
HOLLAND 3 (Roy 17, Van Vossen 61, Irvine og 72)
SCOTLAND 1 (Duncan Shearer 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ansuategui Roca (Spa)
Holland: De Goey — Valckx, F De Boer, R De Boer (Numan 46), Jonk, Rob Witschge, Wouters, Winter, Overmars, Gullit (Van Vossen 46), Roy (Taument 71).
Scotland: Leighton (Gunn 46) — Clarke, McKimmie, McCall, Hendry, Irvine, Durie (Jess 46), McKinlay (Nevin 81), McGinlay (Shearer 75), McAllister, Collins (Ferguson 61).

SATURDAY, MAY 28

May 28 = New Haven — friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Klopas 45)
GREECE 1 (Chatzidis 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,317. **Ref:** Benito Archundia (Mex)
US: Friedel — Balboa* — Lalas, Caligiuri, Burns — Sorber, Dooley, Reyna (Wegerle 78), Ramos, Perez (Wynalda 46) — Klopas (Stewart 47).
** Balboa sent off, 71min.*
Greece: Atmatzidis — Manolas, Kolitzidakis, Apostolakis (Chatzidis 46), Kalitzakis — Tsalohidis, Mitropoulos (Maragos 46), Tsiantakis (Vaios Karagianis 63) — Nioplias — Saravakos (Alexoudis 78), Machas.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

May 29 = Hannover — friendly
GERMANY 0
REP IRELAND 2 (Cascarino 31, G Kelly 68)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** G. Aranba (Spa)
Germany: Illgner — Strunz, Kohler (Effenberg 46), Matthaus, Buchwald (Berthold 36) — Moller (Hassler 46), Wagner, Sammer, Basler — Klinsmann, Riedle (Voller 68).
Rep Ireland: A Kelly — Irwin (G Kelly 46), Phelan, McGrath, Babb — Keane, Townsend, McAteer, Sheridan (Whelan 46), Staunton — Cascarino (Houghton 86).

May 29 = Tokyo — Kirin Cup
JAPAN 1 (Takafumi Ogura 78)
FRANCE 4 (Djorkaeff 16, Papin 18, Ginola 53, 55)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 60,000.
Japan: Maekawa — Kondo, Iwamoto (Endo 70), Natsuka, Ihara — Hashiratani, Asano (Moriyasu 65), Sawanobori, Miura — Hasegawa (Ogura 78), Kurosaka.
France: Lama — Angloma, Blanc, Di Meco (Lizarazu 72), Desailly, Deschamp, Le Guen, Djorkaeff (Ouedec 72), Cantona, Ginola, Papin.
❒ *France won tournament.*

May 29 = Moscow — friendly
RUSSIA 2 (Piatnitski 49, Tsimbalar 60)
SLOVAKIA 1 (Tittel 35)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.
Russia: Kharin — Galiamin, Onopko, Nikoforov, Dmitry Kuznetsov, Ternavski, Piatnitski, Tsimbalar, Salenko, Mostovoi, Radchenko.
Slovakia: Molnar — Stupala (Obsitnik 46), Vrto, Glonek, Kinder, Tittel, Veiss, Moravec (Moravcik 52), Faktor, Zvara, Rusnak.

RESULTS *Josip Weber scores five goals on his debut for Belgium v Zambia . . .*

TUESDAY, MAY 31

May 31 = Tel-Aviv — friendly
ISRAEL 0
ARGENTINA 3 (Batistuta 26, 50, Caniggia 52)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Luisou (Cyp)
Israel: Ginzburg — Hazan, Klinger, Alon Harazi, Glam, Levi (Nimni 46), Berkovi, Attar (Revivo 46), Rosenthal (Ohana 46), R Harazi.
Argentina: Islas — Sensini, Vazquez, Ruggeri, Chamot, Redondo, Balbo, Maradona (Franco 76), Batistuta, Caniggia (Ortega 85).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Jun 1 = Montreal — friendly
CANADA 1 (Doliscat 89)
MOROCCO 1 (Chaouch 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000.
Canada: Forrest, Yallop, Watson, Miller, Fraser, Carter (Doliscat 72), Hooper, Limniatis, Dasovic (Aunger 67), Mobilio (Berdusco 60), Corazzin (Catliff 60).
Morocco: Azmi — Abdeilah, El Hadrioui, Triki, Naybet, Hadji (Samadi 67), El Hadaoui, Daoudi (Bouyboud 83), Habibi, Caouch, Nader (Kachloul 15).

Jun 1 = Eindhoven — friendly
HOLLAND 7 (Bergkamp 12, 90, Roy 17, R Koeman 23pen, Taument 46, Rijkaard 58, 78)
HUNGARY 1 (Iiles 9pen)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 27,450.
Holland: De Goey — Rijkaard, R Koeman, F De Boer (Valckx 46) — Winter (Van Gobbel 46), Jonk (De Wolf 84), Rob Witschge — Overmars (Taument 46), Bergkamp, R De Boer (Van Vossen 62), Bryan Roy.
Hungary: Z Vegh — Puglits, Meszoly, Lipcsei (Albert 46), Marton, Keller — Halmai, Iiles, Kereszturi (T Balog 32) — Klausz (Csertoi 46), Vincze (Dombi 46).

Jun 1 = Oslo — friendly
NORWAY 2 (J I Jakobsen 35, O Berg 44)
DENMARK 1 (Povlsen 41)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 22,000.
Norway: Thorstvedt — Haaland, Johnsen, Bratseth, H Berg — J I Jakobsen (Halle 63), Bohinen, Mykland, Leonhardsen, Flo — Fjortoft (Sorloth 81).
Denmark: Schmeichel — Olsen (Kjeldberg 46), Vilfort, Rieper — J Hoegh, Helveg, M Laudrup, Larsen, B Jensen (Steen Nielsen 70) — B Laudrup, Povlsen.

Jun 1 = Bucharest — friendly
ROMANIA 0
SLOVENIA 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Werner (Pol).
Romania: Prunea (Preda 76) — Petrescu, Prodan (Mihali 75), Belodedici, Munteanu (Moldovan 64), Popescu (Chirita 64), Panduru (Gilca 46), Lupescu, Dumitrescu, Raducioiu (Ivan 43), Niculescu (Stinga 46).
Slovenia: Boskovic — Galic, Krizan, Milanic, Jermanis (Brinkovski 46), Ceh, Novak, Zidan, Zahavic (Kosic 86), Belek (Englaro 82), Gliha (Cvikl 60).

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Jun 2 = Tampere — friendly
FINLAND 1 (Jarvinen 17)
SPAIN 2 (Felipe 11, Salinas 15)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 10,251. **Ref:** Fallstrom (Swe)
Finland: Niemi — Kinnunen, Hyrylainen, Petaja, Makela — Paavola (Suominen 59), M Altonen, R Rantanen (Lindberg 59), Jarvinen — Litmanen, Hjelm.
Spain: Zubizarreta (Canizares 46) — Ferrer, Abelardo, Alkorta, Camarasa — Goikoetxea (Beguiristain 58), Hierro, Guardiola, Felipe — Guerrero (Voro 46) — Salinas (Juanele 58).

Jun 2 = Vienna — friendly
AUSTRIA 1 (Polster 77pen)
GERMANY 5 (Sammer 22, Moller 50, 66, Klinsmann 62, Basler 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,000.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Feiersinger, Streiter (Kogler 75), Pfeffer, Hochmaier (Schoettel 75), Aigner, Pfeifenberger, Artner (Kuehbauer 65), Polster, Stoeger, Huetter (Cerny 65).
Germany: Illgner — Strunz, Brehme, Kohler, Moller (Kuntz 77), Hassler, Matthaus (Basler 85), Berthold, Sammer (Helmer 72), Klinsmann (Riedle 63), Effenberg.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Jun 4 = Brussels — friendly
BELGIUM 9 (Weber 9, 14, 57, 59, 88, Degryse 28, 38, 62, Nilis 55)
ZAMBIA 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 5,000.
Belgium: Preud'homme — Grun (Renier), De Wolf, Albert (Smits), Staelens (Emmers), Van der Eist, Scifo, Boffin, Nilis, Degryse (Wilmots), Weber.
Zambia: Piri — Latina, Choongo*, Ghiyangi, Langu, Skala, J Bwalya, Malavsa, Saleti, Shilumba, Nyavenda.
** Choongo sent off, 35min.*

Jun 4 = Boston — friendly
COLOMBIA 2 (Perez 30, Valencia 44)
N IRELAND 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000.
Colombia: Cordoba — Escobar, Herrera, Gomez, Valderrama, Valencia (De Avila 61), Alvarez, Perea, Rincon, Perez, Asprilla (Aristizabal 62).
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, Worthington, Taggart, Donaghy, Magilton (Dennison 76), Wilson (Lomas 59), Morrow, Quinn (O'Boyle 59), Dowie (Paterson 46), Hughes.

Jun 4 = Zagreb — friendly
CROATIA 0
ARGENTINA 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Grabher (Aut).
Croatia: Ladic — Turkovic, Jarni, Stimac, Jerkan, Bilic, Asanovic (Andrijasevic 46), Prosinecki (Mladenovic 82), Suker (Cvitanovic 75), Boban, Jurcevic (Mornar 46).
Argentina: Goycoechea — Vasquez (Caceres 89), Chamot, Sensini, Redondo, Ruggeri, Caniggia (Ortega 82), Simeone, Balbo (Mancuso 70), Maradona, Batistuta.

Jun 4 = Pomona, New Jersey — friendly
SAUDI ARABIA 3 (Majed Mohammed 9, Saeed Al Owairan 20, Fahd Al-Bishi 29)
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 2 (Eve 43pen, 78)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 1,000.

Jun 4 = Pasadena — friendly
UNITED STATES 1 (Wegerle 51)
MEXICO 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 91,123. **Ref:** Ulloa (CR).
US: Meola — Dooley, Lalas, Caligiuri, Kooiman, Burns, Sorber, Reyna (Jones 89), Ramos, Perez (Wegerle 46; Moore 89), Klopas (Wynalda 46).
Mexico: Campos — Ramirez Perales, Ambriz, Gutierrez, Ramon Ramirez, Bernal, Chavez (Espinoza 68), Galindo, Rodriguez (Garcia Aspe 46), Hermosillo (Salvador 37), Luis Garcia.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Jun 5 = Stockholm — friendly
SWEDEN 2 (Brolin 56, 61pen)
NORWAY 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,600. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Sweden: Ravelli — R Nilsson (Kamark 68), P Andersson, Bjorklund, J Eriksson Ingesson, Schwarz, Thern, Blomqvist (Limpar 89) Dahlin (K Andersson 80), Brolin.
Norway: Thorstvedt H Berg, Eggen, Bratseth, Bjornebye Flo (Halle 36), Bohinen, Rekdal, Mykland (Fjortoft 65), J I Jakobsen, S Rushfeldt (Strand 65).

Jun 5 = Dublin — friendly
REP IRELAND 1 (Townsend 43)
CZECH REP 3 (Kuka 25pen, 53, Suchoparek 84)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,465. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Rep Ireland: Bonner — G Kelly, McGrath (Babb 77), Kernaghan, Phelan, McGoldrick (Keane 53), Sheridan, Townsend, Staunton, Cascarino (Coyne 64), Aldridge (McAteer 53).
Czech Rep: Kouba — Kubik, Kotulek, Repka, Suchoparek, Poborsky, Nemec (Medved 86), Frydek (Samec 89), Novotny, Smejkal, P Kuka.

Jun 5 = Edmonton — friendly
CANADA 1 (Eddy Berdusco 71)
BRAZIL 1 (Romario 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 51,922.
Canada: Forrest — Yallop, Watson, Samuel, Fraser, Carter (Aunger 60), Miller, Limniatis (Hooper 46), Dasovic (Doliscat 74), Mobilio (Berdusco 62), Corrazin (Catliff 57).
Brazil: Taffarel — Jorginho (Cafu 65), Rocha, Ricardo Gomes, Leonardo, Mauro Silva (Mazinho 46), Dunga, Zinho, Rai (Paulo Sergio 65), Bebeto, Romario.

Jun 5 = East Rutherford — friendly
COLOMBIA 2 (Gaviria 48, Rincon 68)
GREECE 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,511.
Colombia: Cordoba — Mendoza, Perea (A Escobar 46), Alvarez, Gaviria — Valderrama, Ortiz (Serna 73), De Avila (Valencia 46) — Lozano (Rincon 16), Aristizabal (F Asprilla 46).
Greece: Atmatzides — Apostolakis, Kolitsidakis, Manolas, Kalintzakis, Tsalouhidis (Mitropoulos 81) — Nioplias, Marangos (Alexandris 72), Handzitis (Dimitriadis 55) — Machlas (Saravakos 55), Kofidis.

Jun 5 = Wakefield, Mass. — friendly
ECUADOR 2 (Ron 31, 77)
SOUTH KOREA 1 (Hong Myung-Bo 60 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000.
Ecuador: Espinoza — Coronel, B Tenorio, Montano, M Tenorio, Capurro, Garay*, Klever Fajardo (Gavica 77), Chala, Ron, Vernaza (Carcelen 69).
** Garay sent off, 40min.*
S Korea: Choi In-Young (Park Chul-Wu 46) — Hong Myung-Bo, Shin Hong-Gi, Park Jung-Bae, Kin Pan0Keun, Choi Young-Il, Ko Jeong-Woon (Ha Seok-Ju 65), Lee Young-Jin (Noh Jung-Yoon 46), Choi Dae-Shik (Lee Jung-Wa 46), Kim Joo-Sung (Choi Jin-Ho 65), Hwang Sun-Hong.

OTHER MATCHES

May 10 *(Sheffield)*: **ENGLAND B 4** (Holdsworth 17, Merson 24, Bould 45, Scales 88), **N IRELAND B 2** (O'Boyle 14, J Quinn 36).
May 12 *(Seoul)*: **SOUTH KOREA 2** (Choi Dae-sik 34, Hwang Sun-hong 38), **INTERNACIONAL PA 2** (Schveltzer 13, Fuks 69).
May 15 *(Bogota)*: **COLOMBIA 2** (Valenciano 18, De Avila 68), **BAYERN MUNICH 0**
May 30: BELGIUM 0 SETE 1, MEXICO 1 INTERNAZIONALE 0

BALKAN CUP

Final: **Samsunspor** (Tur) bt **Ioannina** (Gre) 3-0, 2-0 *(5-0 on agg)*.

ERRATUM

IN some editions of our World Cup fixtures booklet — free with the June issue — the venue for the second semi-final read Orlando, when it should have read Los Angeles.

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

First round — Group 1

April 12 — Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Caballero)
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Att: 6,600.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Mea (Caballero), Franco, V. Sanabria, Sotelo, Del Valle, Campos (M. Sanabria).
Junior: Pazo, Briasco, Perea, Mendoza, Galeano, Grau, Mendez, Araujo (Samaniego), Valderrama, Valenciano, Guerrero.

April 15 — Asuncion (Paraguay)
CERRO PORTENO (Par) 1 (Struway)
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Antonio Pereira (Brazil)
C. Porteno: Mendoza, Gamarra, Sanabria, Villamayor, Barrios (Jefferson), Struway, Enciso, Torres, Ferreira, Espinola, Yegros.
Junior: Pazo, Briasco, Perea, Mendoza, Uribe, Mendez, Barros, Araujo, Pacheco, Valenciano, Samaniego.

Group 1 — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep. Medellin	6	3	2	1	6	1	8
Olimpia	6	3	2	1	5	3	8
Atletico Junior	6	2	1	3	4	5	5
Cerro Porteno	6	1	1	4	4	10	3

Top three qualify for second round

Group 3

April 12 — Lima (Peru)
ALIANZA LIMA (Peru) 2 (Saenz 2)
EMELEC (Ecu) 2 (Edu, Fernandez)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col).
Alianza: Pizarro, Soto, Ruiz, Guido, Basombrio (Saavedra), Rodriguez, Hinostroza, Valencia, Kopriva, Muchotrigo, Saenz.
Emelec: Espinoza, Coronel, Hurtado, Tenorio, Capurro, Pico (Verduga), Fajardo, Morales, Dos Santos, Oste (Garces), Fernandez.

April 15 — Lima (Peru)
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 2 (Flores, Obando)
EMELEC (Ecu) 1 (Pico)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Jose Gomez (Col). **Att:** 30,000.
Universitario: Zubzuck, Dulanto, Reynoso, Asteggiano, Bravo, Martinez, Rodriguez, Carranza, Maldonado (Silva), Flores, Obando.
Emelec: Espinoza, Coronel, M. Tenorio, I Hurtado, Capurro, Pico, Morales, Fajardo, Dos Santos, Fernandez (Smith), Oste.

Group 3 — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	6	3	1	2	9	5	7
Barcelona	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Universitario	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Alianza Lima	6	2	1	3	6	11	5

Top three qualify for second round

Group 4

April 12 — Montevideo (Uruguay)
DEFENSOR (Uru) 1 (De Souza)
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 1 (Carreno, pen)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Claudio Cerdeira (Bra).
Att: 7,000.
Defensor: Arbiza, Gonzalez, Lasarte, Saravia, Dos Santos, Almada (Ferreiro), Cantera, Marrero, De Souza, Correa (Perez), Alves.
Un. Espanola: Rabajda, Lucca, Galdamez, Rojas, Figueroa, Donoso, Salas, Sierra (Bustos), Carreno (Bernal), Sanchez, Ruiz.

April 15 — Montevideo (Uruguay)
NACIONAL (Uru) 0
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 1 (Montesinos)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Joao Araujo (Bra). **Att:** 50,000.
Nacional: Sere, Abeijon, Canals, Revelez, Souza, Gutierrez, Preyra (Lemos), O'Neill, Morena (Parodi), Vidal Gonzalez, Cannobio.
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Gonzalez, Lucca, Figueroa, Donoso, Rojas, Salas, Carreno (Bustos), Sierra, Sanchez, Montesinos.

Group 4 — *Final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	6	4	1	1	11	6	9
Union Espanola	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
Defensor	6	1	3	2	3	5	5
Nacional	6	1	1	4	5	8	3

Top three qualify for second round

Second round — 1st leg

April 14 — La Paz (Bolivia)
BOLIVAR (Bol) 2 (Antelo 2)
THE STRONGEST (Bol) 1 (Garcia)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Att: 30,000.
Bolivar: M. Soria, Cristaldo, Sandy, Rimba, Ferrufino, Teran, V. Soria, Baldivieso, P. Salaberry, Antelo, Cueto.
The Strongest: Ibarra, Borja, Quinteros, Sanchez, Arteaga, Luna, Villarroel, Andrada, Aramayo, A. Garcia, Mir.

April 20 — Barranquilla (Colombia)
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 1 (Guerrero)
COLO COLO (Chi) 1 (Vilches)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000.
At. Junior: Pazo, Briasco, Perea, Mendoza, Galeano, Grau, Mendez (Araujo), Pacheco, Valderrama, Valenciano, Guerrero (Herandez).
Colo Colo: Moron, Mendoza, Reyes, Margas, Vilches, Ramirez, Fracchia (Rubio), Gonzalez, Vallejo, Baena, Yanez (Vega).

April 20 Lima (Peru)
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 2 (Nunes 2)
INDEPENDIENTE MEDELLIN (Col) 1 (Gomez)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ivan Guerrero (Chi). **Att:** 35,000.
Universitario: Zubzuck, Reynoso, Dulanto (Torrealba), Bravo, Astegiano, Nunes, Carranza, Martinez, Maldonado (Silva), Obando, Flores.
Independiente: Barbat, Pino, Fernandez, Estrada, Perez, Gomez, Botero, Pareja, Alvarez, Hernandez, Castro (Juarez).

April 20 — Puerto Ordaz (Venezuela)
MINERVEN (Ven) 2 (Garcia, Rivas pen)
EMELEC (Ecu) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Fernando Chapel (Peru).
Att: 14,000.
Minerven: Angelucci, McIntosh, Vera, Toretolero, E. Garcia, Grueso, Jaimes, Erramuspe, Rivas, Da Silva (Balcucho), J. Garcia.
Emelec: Espinoza, Smith, Capurro, Hurtado, Tenorio, Morales, Verdugo, Pico, Edu, Fernandez, Osdte (Garces).

April 20 — Guayaquil (Ecuador)
BARCELONA (Ecu) 0
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (V. Sanabria)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col). **Att:** 30,000.
Barcelona: Mendoza, Gomez, Montanero, Montano, Alcivar, Macias (Delgado), Martinez, Gavica, Pizarro, Aviles, Alfaro Moreno.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, V. Sanabria, Jara Heyn, Franco, Sotelo, Del Valle (Castro), Cardozo (Campos).

April 21 — Santiago (Chile)
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 1 (Carreno)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sabino Farina (Par)
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Galdddames, Lucca, Figueroa, Donoso, Salas (Perdomo), Rojas, Sierra, Montesinos (Morales), Carreno, Ruiz.

April 21 — Montevideo (Uruguay)
DEFENSOR (Uru) 1 (De Souza)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1 (Almandoz)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra)
Defensor: Arbiza, Silva Cantera, Lasarte, Tabare Silva, Dos Santos, Ferreri, Almada, Merrero (Ferraro), De Souza, Alves, Correa (Chilelli).
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Almandoz, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, Gomez, Comagnucci, Bassedas (Campos), Floes, Asad (Husain).

April 27 — Sao Paulo (Brazil)
PALMEIRAS (Bra) 0
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
Att: 60,000.
Palmeiras: Fernandez, Claudio, Antonio Carlos, Gleber, Roberto Carlos, Cesar Sampaio, Mazinho (Amaral), Rincon, Zinho, Edmundo (Edilson), Evair.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Junior Baiano, Gilmar, Andre, Doriva, Axel, Leonardo (Juninho), Jamelli (Victor), Fuler, Muller.

Second round — 2nd leg

April 24 — La Paz (Bolivia)
THE STRONGEST (Bol) 0
BOLIVAR (Bol) 4 (Antelo, Baldivieso 2, Soria)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** A. Sanchez (Arg). **Att:** 30,000.
The Strongest: Ibarra, Arteaga, Tome, Francisquine, Borja, Aramayo, Andrada, Luna, Vuillarroel, Gareca (De Jesus), Mir.
Bolivar: Soria, Ruiz, Rimba, Villegas, Cristaldo, V. Soria, Baldivieso, Teran, Salaberry (Cuenca), Antelo, Cueto (Suarez).

April 27 — Medellin (Colombia)
INDEPENDIENTE MEDELLIN (Col) 2 (Gomez, Juarez)
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** F. Escobar (Par). **Att:** 40,000.
Independiente: Barbat, Estrada, Fernandez, Botero, Alvarez, Gomez, Diaz, Parera, Castro, Juarez (Perez), Hernandez (Uribe).
Universitario: Miranda, Dulanto, Bravo, Astegiano, Reynoso, Carranza, Martinez, Rodriguez (Obando), Munoz (Torrealba), Nunes, Flores.

April 27 — Guayaquil (Ecuador)
EMELEC (Ecu) 3 (M. Tenorio, Oste 2)
MINERVEN (Ven) 1 (J. Garcia)
HT: 3-1.
Emelec: Espinosa, Coronel, Hurtado, M Tenorio, Capurro (Ron), Morales, Fajardo (Castillo), Pico, Edu, Oste, Fernandez.
Minerven: Angelucci, McIntosh, E. Garcia, Tortolero, Jaimes (Pacheco), Erramuspe, Vera, Grueso, J. Garcia, S. Rivas, Da Silva (Morales).

April 27 — Asuncion (Paraguay)
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (Cardoso 2)
BARCELONA (Ecu) 1 (Montano)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jorge Matto (Uru)
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ayala, Ramirez, Suarez, Jara, Sanabria, Franco (Avalos), Sotelo, Del Valle, Cardoso (Campos).
Barcelona: Mendoza, Gomez, Tenorio, Montanero (Carabali), Alcivar (Insua), Montano, Pizarro, Martinez, Gavica, Alfaro Moreno, Aviles.

April 27 — Buenos Aires (Argentina)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
DEFENSOR (Uru) 0
Ref: Marcio Rezende (Bra)
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Almandez, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, Gomez, Bassedas (Gonzalez), Camps, Asad, Flores.
Defensor: Arbisa, Silva Cantera, Lazarte, Sarabia, Dos Santos, Ferreri, Almada, De Souza (Lima), Marrero, (Chilelli), Alvez, Correa.

April 28 — Belo Horizonte (Brazil)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
UNION ESPANOLA (Chi) 0
Ref: Ernesto Filippi (Uru)
Cruzeiro: Dida, Paulo Roberto, Celio Lucio, Luizinho, Nonato, Ademir, Luiz Fernando (Macale), Cate, Ronaldo, Roberto Gaucho, Rogerio Lage (Cleisson).
Union Espanola: Rabajda, Lucca, Donoso, Rojas, Figueroa, Galddames, Salas, Perdomo, Sierra, Carreno (Morales), Ruiz (Bernao).

April 27 — Santiago (Chile)
COLO COLO (Chi) 2 (Toninho 2)
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 2 (Guerrero, Grau)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 45,000.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS CLUB TROPHY

3rd round — 2nd leg

April 10 — San Salvador (El Salvador)
ALIANZA (ES) 2 (Ulloa, Bufarini)
AURORA (Guat) 1 (Westphal)
Aet. **90min score:** 1-1. **Agg:** 3-2.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Italoargentino tournament
May 8: River Plate (Arg) 1 Roma (Ita) 3
May 9: Independiente (Arg) 3 Napoli (Ita) 2

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

A waste of air time

"NOW HERE'S Marcus Buckland with the sports news," said a jolly news reader on Radio Bloke, alias *Radio Five Live*. Dead silence. Silence protracted.

On comes the jolly newsreader, again. Oh, well, we can't get Marcus Buckland, but (like some friendly bus inspector) there'll be another one, another sports bulletin, along in an hour.

Sloppy is as sloppy does. This occasionally happened before, in the dear dead days of mere *Radio 5*. But at that point it was infuriating. The curious, geriatric England party to play Greece and Norway had just been announced by Terry Venables, and I didn't want to wait another hour to hear about it.

Quite what Radio Bloke is for, I'm uncertain. As initially presented, it seemed like an exercise in patronage, aimed dubiously at the intellectually challenged young. But the level of discourse seems far from patronising, and the young, if indeed they are disadvantaged, would be far more likely to tune into a pop station.

The sports content, thank goodness, is still intact. My

On the air . . . former England manager Graham Taylor.

Opening the gate for a flood of appeals

FIFA, strong when they are wrong, obdurate and authoritarian when they've got hold of the wrong end of the stick, or when it does not matter, surpassed themselves in folly when they gave way to the German DFB and allowed that match between Bayern Munich and Nurnberg to be replayed.

For a moment I thought the Gnomes of Zurich might have got things right. Guido Tognoni, their spokesman, said on the day of the committee meeting that it always had been FIFA's policy to decree that only matters of law, rather than matters of fact, pertaining to a referee's decision, were debatable. So indeed had it been from the year dot.

Bayern, challenging for the Bundesliga title, were playing Nurnberg, threatened by relegation. A Bayern shot passed well wide but a deluded and insistent linesman persuaded the referee to give a goal, which enabled Bayern to win 2-1.

Nurnberg protested. You could hardly blame them. It was a monstrously incorrect, purblind decision, one which would potentially cost them their place. But allowing them to replay was a monumental risk.

FIFA, it appeared, crumpled and capitulated under the insistence of the DFB, clearly against their better judgment. The game was replayed and, ironically, Bayern this time won 5-0, giving them a still better hold on the title, which they went on to win, and putting Nurnberg in still deeper trouble.

But now, in this televisual age, the door has been opened to chaos. Imagine what can now happen unless FIFA screw up their courage to the sticking place; an unlikely eventuality, I must agree. The way will be clear for appeals on almost anything you can think of. And how can they now be resisted? Appeals over balls which did or did not cross the line (were the Germans bitterly remembering Geoff Hurst's third goal in the 1966 World Cup Final?) Appeals over offside; given or not given. Appeals over penalties; ditto. Even over lesser incidents.

Football could soon become a lawyer's paradise. Referees would be so demoralised that few would want to carry on.

And all because FIFA, in FIFA fashion, funked it, ducked it, sold the pass. But should we be surprised?

Arsenal, team of the season

WERE Arsenal, rather than Manchester United, the team of the English season? It seems like heresy, I know, and George Graham, above all, will be astonished to see me suggesting any such thing.

After all, I have for years been one of the critics of his cautious, negative, unimaginative style. Were

Still in dispute . . . Geoff Hurst's second goal for England against West Germany in the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley.

quarrel with those old-fashioned soccer commentaries remains — when are the Beeb going to get into the latter 20th Century and follow the example of Italy, Spain and France, hopping from match to match?

And I'm happy that the sports department have escaped the consequence of a monumental error: airing Graham Taylor to comment on the World Cup.

Do I not like that? No I damn well don't. What we needed after England's elimination, and Taylor's belated resignation, was the equivalent of a period of mourning.

He'd gone down with the ship, so to speak, the ship he had done so much to sink, but in the immortal words of Prime Minister Clem Attlee to the maverick Professor Harold Laski, one wanted to say, "A period of silence on your part would be appreciated."

We didn't get it. Taylor's grinning face confronts us on the television and elsewhere, in a series of commercials. He even made capital out of his ungrammatical nonsense.

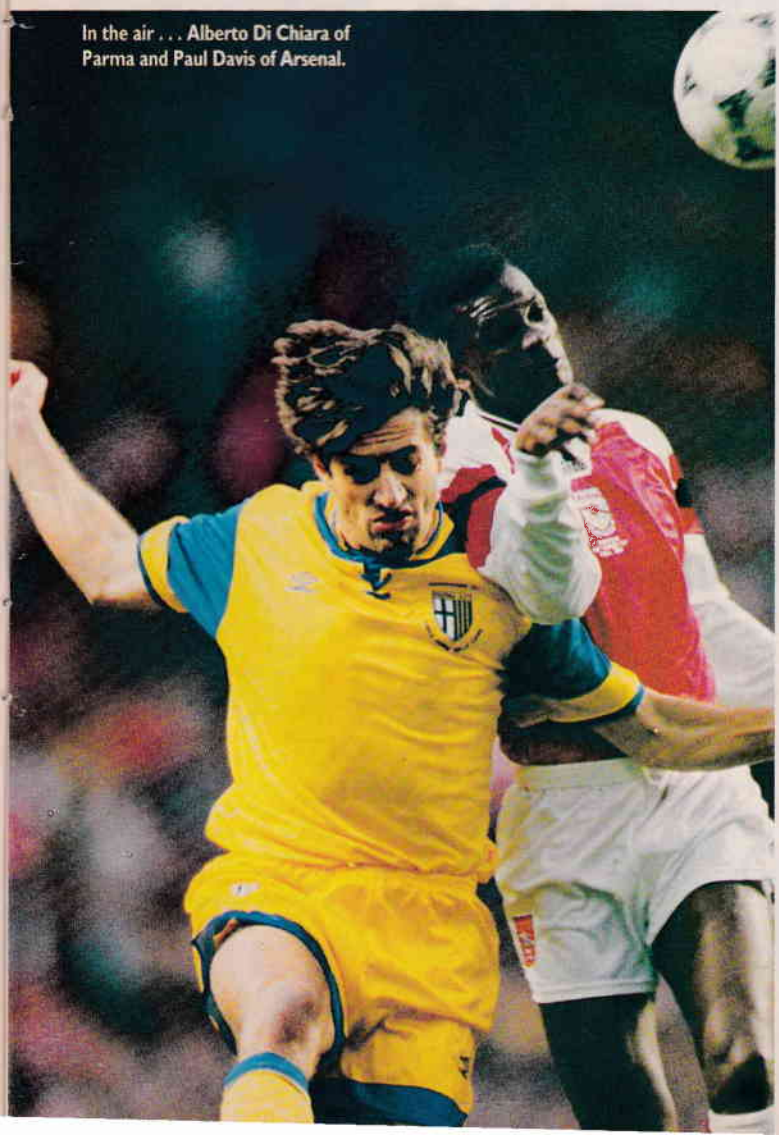
To have Taylor commenting on the World Cup would have induced a feeling of revulsion. Who would want to hear him, after his wretched regime had ended in England's elimination from a group which should have ensured them a safe passage?

In the US, Taylor would have been a turn off in the most literal sense.

One point. *Radio 5* kept time pretty well. You'd expect the *Five Live*, news-based wavelength to be even more exact.

It's not. Time and again, as one waits for the half-hour sports news, there's a maddening Slop Over, as President Nixon would have said. Sometimes an overrun of up to four minutes. Especially maddening if, as on one occasion, it consisted of a couple of dim supporters chuntering on about the Cup Final.

I can't imagine even the intellectually disadvantaged would be too keen about that. If they were listening.


In the air . . . Alberto Di Chiara of Parma and Paul Davis of Arsenal.

George "Stroller" Graham around today as a player, elegant, casual, inventive, technically adroit, George the manager would not give him a glance. Except, perhaps, a derisory one.

It's true that Arsenal, under Graham, have manifestly lacked flair. Whenever I sit in the Press Box at Highbury. I find myself surrounded by protesting supporters, Limpar Men, if you like, who deplore the lack of skill in midfield.

Limpar, of course, went the way of all fantasists at Highbury: sold.

Paul Davis, fortunately, remained. In the previous season, he had been mysteriously confined to the reserves until a very late stage, when he suddenly and unexpectedly re-emerged at Ipswich, had an excellent match, and stayed in the side. His was the delightful pass which should have given Kevin Campbell an easy goal against Parma in the Cup-winners Cup Final.

Campbell made a hash of it, Parma went straight to the other end, and Tomas Brolin hit a post. Later, after a wonderful piece of virtuosity by Faustino Asprilla, Gianfranco Zola had a shot which David Seaman gloriously saved. All of which showed that the game could have gone either way.

But Arsenal won it, thanks to a ludicrous error by Lorenzo Minotti, splendidly exploited by Alan Smith. In winning, they staked their claim to be England's outstanding side.

Yes, they laboured in the League, and Manchester United, at their peak, were far and away the most talented, attractive, effective side. They did the double, always a tremendous feat. But they disgraced themselves by getting knocked out by as indifferent a team as Turkey's Galatasaray, who became little better than a punching bag in the latter stages of the competition.

Only United, at Old Trafford, made them look so good, so briefly.

In the League Cup Final, United — admittedly without the remarkable, combustible Eric Cantona — flopped miserably against Aston Villa. Even in the League, they had a sustained passage in which they fumbled and struggled.

No comparison between that glorious Cup victory at Wimbledon and the dismal defeat in the League, with Peter Schmeichel giving away yet another messy goal.

Schmeichel atoned to some extent in the FA Cup Final, making three excellent late saves, but goodness knows he had plenty to atone for.

So "boring, boring" Arsenal did what United could not do. By the start of next season, I hope they'll have bought at least one creative midfield player. Davis, at 32, cannot go on for ever.

BROOKING talkback

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

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Root out the actors

TREVOR — You're probably sick of letters about bad decisions, but I had to land one more on your desk after having witnessed one of the worst cases of refereeing I have ever seen. I refer to the European Cup semi-final between Milan and Monaco and in particular the sending off of Sandro Costacurta. When the referee booked him for the first foul on Klinsmann, you could tell that as soon as Costacurta so much as breathed on Klinsmann he was going to go down — and down he went, faking.

Players like Klinsmann are spoiling the game for everyone; the player misses the chance to play in a final and the fans miss watching the awesome skills of players such as Costacurta and Baresi (unfairly booked).

Why don't referees watch out for this sort of gamesmanship, try to stamp it out, and deal with players who over-react in this way?

— WENDY REDFUNEL, Dundee, Scotland.

❒ THIS unfair decision was the talking point of football for several days and certainly Klinsmann emerged with little credit. The World Cup should be an interesting exercise for observing how strict officials are going to be with players who feign injury. They have been asked to book anyone guilty of such elaborate faking — something which must be eradicated quickly.

Missing out on Europe

TREVOR — I am embarrassed and ashamed at the narrow-mindedness of the English football media. Why does there continue to be a complete ignorance and refusal to look outside the British soccer scene?

All over Europe, fervent football fans are able to enjoy the luxury of watching top European football such as Barcelona v Real Madrid, or FC Porto v Benfica. Here the myth of the Italian League has taken over and British soccer people seem to think the Italian League is the only one worth watching, when the quality and excitement of the Italian games are highly over-rated.

— OLIVER MERCHANT, Manchester England.

❒ THE fixtures you mention from Spain and Portugal are classic encounters. But neither country has the number of quality clubs in the depth that are found in Serie A. It would be difficult to select a regular weekly live fixture from the Spanish or Portuguese League which sustains the viewing figures for *Channel 4*. The same could be said for France and Germany too, where again the charismatic players and personalities are thinly spread. Many people would argue there is more than enough football on television, and so further coverage might receive a lukewarm response.

FIFA must change

TREVOR — The 1990 World Cup Final produced 90 minutes of the most uninspiring football imaginable. It was a tournament dominated by set-pieces and the dreaded shoot-out. Four years on, and nobody, particularly FIFA, seem to have learned from the Italian fiasco.

Three points for a win may or may not improve the quality of the group games. I suggest a return to the 1982 system whereby only the semi-finals and the final could be decided by penalties.

It is only by changing the format of the tournament that FIFA can take the competition back to the heights it reached in 1970. The present second-round system has eight games which might be decided by penalties and allow teams such as the Republic of Ireland to qualify for a quarter-final place after scoring only twice.

Argentina reached the final in Italy by scoring only five times. FIFA must change to ensure this does not happen again and to ensure that football retains its mantle as "The beautiful game".

— BILLY McELLIGOTT, Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland.

❒ CERTAINLY the 1990 World Cup Final was a dreadful affair. Three points for a win in group matches should be of benefit this time, but you are understandably apprehensive about whether the eight matches in the next round will be any more positive than before. Goals should be rewarded more, so perhaps they could be the decisive factor when matches are level after extra time. Instead of a penalty shoot-out why not reward the side who have scored more goals? The onus would be on the other team in extra time to gamble in attack, and hopefully make it more of a spectacle.

Forza Milan

TREVOR — The world witnessed a spectacle of football when Milan stormed to the 4-0 victory over "the mighty Barcelona". The match was, as Johan Cruyff predicted, a one-sided affair with one team constantly on the attack and one constantly defending — unfortunately for him it was the opposite way around from his prediction.

The British press will, I hope, eat their words and take back the view that Italian football, and in particular Milan's, is negative. Cruyff's view that "it would be bad for football if Milan win" was turned around completely. It would have been bad if Barcelona had won. I cannot remember one move that Barcelona put together.

Milan, without their two brilliant central defenders Baresi and Costacurta, both suspended, as well as the injured Van Basten, put on a show of how football should be played and destroyed Cruyff's "total football" game. FORZA ITALIA!

— MARCO RINALDI, Edinburgh, Scotland.

❒ EVERYONE was enthralled with Milan's wonderful display against Barcelona, which left a talented side outclassed and outplayed. Savicevic was superb and his performance only went to highlight how sad it is that the turmoil in former Yugoslavia leaves such a talent absent from the World Cup. Desailly has been a revelation since joining from Marseille, and his dominance reminded us that France are another country missing out.

Referees United

TREVOR — Throughout football there has been countless debates around the inconsistencies of the match officials followed by debates on how to improve the standards of referees and linesmen for the good of the game.

Alan Ball suggested that the four-man team of the referee, linesmen and reserve official should stay together as a group during a season instead of being swapped around from match to match. This would result in a better understanding between the officials and thus more consistency. The only other solution would be television.

— PIERS SANTER, Telford, Shropshire.

❒ CONSISTENCY is the key topic whenever the subject of match officials comes under scrutiny. Alan Ball's suggestion is something I have advocated as it would at least help create a mutual understanding among four-man teams. They could discuss and analyse their more controversial incidents, and agree a system of additional signals and actions which would improve as each match went by. The question of television replays is only realistic for major tournaments.